

Hafa Adai!

Mayor Atalig, girlfriend seek continuance of trial. **PAGE 2**

Tax relief on importation of eco-friendly products proposed. **PAGE 8**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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## HR 560 passes House

» **Bill grants CNMI-only resident status to investors, long-term workers**

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S House of Representatives yesterday passed House Resolution 560, or the Northern Marianas Islands Residents Relief Act.

Introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), H.R. 560 proposes to provide permanent resident status to long-term foreign workers or CW workers, as well as investors, in the CNMI.



Sablan

See HR 560 on Page 4

### 'This would cripple the CNMI'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Janice

Tenorio fears that once the injunction to enforce the CNMI Supreme Court's ruling is carried out, it would cause a ripple effect, inevitably

crippling the entire CNMI in the process.

BOE voted 3-2 during a special board meeting last Wednesday on a motion to file an injunction against the CNMI government regard-

ing the funds owed to the Public School System.

According to Tenorio, she strongly disagrees with the decision to carry out the injunction to sue parties

See CRIPPLE on Page 4



### BOE denies 4-day school week for PSS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Board of Education denied the Public School System's proposal to cut the school week to just four days as part of their austerity measures proposal.

During a BOE special board meeting last Wednesday, BOE had a 3-2 vote on whether to implement the austerity measures proposed by PSS, including cutting school

See BOE on Page 4

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Board of Education special board meeting last Wednesday was jam-packed with concerned teachers, staff, and students with many having to stand outside to take part in the meeting.

## USCIS approves 1,030 H-2B workers for IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approved Imperial Pacific International

(CNMI) LLC's 1,030 H-2B visa applications for fiscal year 2020-2021, according to

Eric Poon, IPI assistant vice president of construction.

In its update on its construc-

tion progress for Imperial Palace Saipan in Garapan, as presented during the Commonwealth Casino Commission's regular monthly meeting yesterday, Poon said IPI

is expecting to have more H2B workers arriving Saipan this March.

Poon said currently they have 368 H2B workers and

See IPI on Page 4

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang swore in Kaelani Babauta Demapan as the newest board member of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance.

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### ASIA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday said Filipino forces can fight insurgents and Muslim extremists without American military help.

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### FOCUS

At least 24 people were killed and 189 injured in three days of clashes in New Delhi that coincided with U.S. President Donald Trump's first state visit to India.

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## Local

# Mayor Atalig, girlfriend seek continuance of trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig has asked the U. S. District Court for the NMI to continue the trial of their case to until the related criminal case pending before the Superior Court is resolved as to his seven co-defendants.

In a motion for continuance of trial filed Wednesday, Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, said the seven co-defendants are essential for his defense in the federal case because of their anticipated

exculpatory testimony.

Exculpatory refers to evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal case that tends to exonerate the defendant of guilt.

Evelyn Atalig, through counsel Steven Pixley, joined in Atalig's motion for continuance.

The seven co-defendants are Dean A. Manglona, Dennis C. Mendiola, Dexter T. Apatang, Eusebio B. Manglona, Josepha B. Manglona, Magdalena SN Mesngon, and Vanessa G. Charfauros.

Banes said the Superior

Court case is currently scheduled for a bench trial for March 30, 2020, which should then make the co-defendants available to testify in the federal court case.

The federal court case is set for trial on March 10.

The lawyer said the bench trial in the local court case is expected to last a week or so, therefore the continuance requested is only for 30 days.

Banes said at least four co-defendants are unavailable because they are still being prosecuted in the Superior Court case.

He said all seven co-defendants have been threatened with federal prosecution and so they are expected to invoke the Fifth Amendment if called to testify at trial in this federal case.

Banes said Mr. Atalig has done everything he could to resolve this by first requesting immunity from both the U.S. government and the CNMI government, and after their refusal, moved the federal court to compel immunization.

With the motion to compel denied, Banes said, the only time the co-defendants may be

free to speak is after the CNMI case is resolved.

He said assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley at the motion hearing held last Monday essentially told the court that as of now "most likely" the U.S. government would not prosecute the co-defendants, regardless of the results of the bench trial in the CNMI case.

Therefore, Banes said, the co-defendants can be compelled to testify at trial, once the CNMI case is finished, but not before that.

In the federal case, the charges against the Ataligs in-

volve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft.

In the Superior Court case, the Office of the Attorney General charged Mayor Atalig and the seven co-defendants with misconduct in public office.

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\*Special Rate for all CNMI Residents

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Saipan



## Slots available for artists and other vendors for Flame Tree Arts Festival

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is encouraging visual, traditional, and performing artists, as well as non-profit organizations and food vendors to register for the 39th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival scheduled for April 16-19, 2020 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

vendor slots available on a first come, first served basis. All other vendor registration forms are due on or before Monday, March 30, 2020 at 4:30pm. Registration forms must be submitted to the CCAC office in Capitol Hill.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is free and open to the public. It is the biggest annual festival that celebrates the

local and visiting groups and musicians, art demonstrations, and an array of delightful festival food favorites for an enjoyable weekend with family and friends.

For more information on how to register for a booth or about the Flame Tree Arts Festival, visit the CCAC office next to the post office in Capitol Hill, or call (670) 322-9982/83. (PR)

Registration fees for this year's festival are as follows:

Registration category	Registration fee
CCAC registered artist	1 free booth/\$60 for additional booth.
New or non-registered artist	\$150
Information booth	\$150
Non-profit organization/non-food	\$350
Private/commercial vendor (food)	\$1,000

Registration forms are available for pick up at the CCAC office in Capitol Hill and the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan. In addition, registration forms are also available for download on the CCAC website at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org> and on the DCCA website at <http://www.dcca.gov.mp>.

All food vendor registration forms are due on or before Monday, March 16, 2020 at 4:30pm. There are 13 food

rich art and cultural heritage of the CNMI. The annual festival showcases the finest arts by featuring a wide selection of artworks from CNMI registered and non-registered artists, both traditional and contemporary, using different mediums and offering varied price ranges to suit anyone's taste and budget. The festival also showcases artwork from official off-island delegates.

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## HR 560

From Page 1

In his statement, Sablan said that H.R. 560 would give stability to a small group of investors who were in the Northern Marianas even before federal immigration, as well as foreign workers who have been calling the islands home for decades.

"They have been holding on with short-term visas ever since, never certain from year to year about their business investments, and we want to give the same certainty to a group of long-term workers, some of who have been in the Marianas for 40 years, and to businesses that employ them."

"Today's bill, H.R. 560, continues this work of smoothing over the rough places in the application of the national immigration law to my isolated district. H.R. 560 provides the same permanent status, in the Marianas only, that President Trump approved for parolees in June," Sablan added.

Sablan has been working to make the transition from local to federal control of immigration in the Marianas at least difficult as possible since he first came into office in 2009.

Sablan introduced H.R. 560 on Jan. 15, 2019 to provide an improved immigration status to individuals who have lived in the CNMI since Nov. 28, 2009, provided they meet the requirements to be eligible for the status under the legislation.

The delegate also referenced last year's signing of Public Law 116-24 by President Donald Trump, which helps the CNMI convert about 1,000 people living under administrative parole to residents with a permanent legal status in the Marianas only, not

eligible for any public charge at all.

"Just last week, the administration issued the necessary guidelines to allow those 1,000 people to begin the application process, and they are grateful to the President and to everyone at USCIS Department of Homeland Security for this support," Sablan said.

In February, the Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on H.R. 560 with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres testifying in favor of the bill.

According to Sablan, the Trump administration did not take a position but their witness noted, and which the Delegate quoted, "Without a sustained labor force, projected investment in the CNMI likely will wither."

For his closing, Sablan expressed that the House "could do something to avoid that consequence by passing H.R. 560," and stressed that the bill is Marianas-only, and with bipartisan support.

"I am very grateful to Chairman Raúl Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop, who both are cosponsors of H.R. 560. Bipartisan support was essential for passage in the House today and will be essential, as well, for passage in the Senate," Sablan said.

With two-thirds of the vote on the affirmative, H.R. 560 passed the U.S. House of Representatives by voice vote yesterday, and is now at the Senate for deliberation.

### Positive news for the CNMI

The passage of the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives is a plus for the Commonwealth, according to Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

"This is positive news for our Commonwealth, and we thank and commend Congressman Sablan, Ranking Member Rob Bishop, and

the U.S. House for passing this important legislation that will help stabilize our economy and workforce, while providing stable relief for the many families and individuals who have called these islands home."

Both Torres and Palacios have supported H.R. 560 from the very beginning, with the bill being part of the government's 902 consultations over the last several years to alleviate workforce concerns on the island, and to strengthen the viability of the CNMI economy.

"We have made our case with both the White House and Congress about this issue, and we are thankful to the leadership we have met over the years that have learned to understand the CNMI's issues within its economy."

In his statement, Palacios added that H.R. 560 will allow qualified individuals to not be counted toward the CW cap, which would allow the CNMI to bring in additional workforce to assist in rebuilding homes and schools, while building new businesses to contribute to economic development.

"Most importantly, we are happy for the families and individuals qualified under this bill. It is another step forward, and we will support passage in the U.S. Senate through our communications and partnerships with Republican leaders," Palacios added.

### Answering the need for stability

Representing more than 140 private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations all working together to sustain the islands' livelihood, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce congratulated Sablan on the House passage of H.R. 560.

The Chamber also recognized

However, Ada said that it is not fair to decide on another cut right away without further discussion especially since the government owes PSS money.

"[Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres] has to do what he needs to do to give us what is due to us. I cannot sit here and review all of these cuts and vote on this now," she said.

According to teacher representative Paul Miura, it's not that teachers are not willing to sacrifice like everyone else, it's just that they have borne the brunt of the CNMI's financial crisis for too long.

"To suggest teachers are not willing to sacrifice is just not true, many of us have already been cut 20% and the cuts that are needed would put us well below the old compensation plan. All I'm asking is that we give it another day to sit down and review those options. Teachers are willing to sacrifice and we have already done so, and we continue to do so," he said.

the tower hotel is in progress and is forecast to be completed by June 30, 2020.

Construction of Level 2 VIP gaming and Level 14 sky level, which started in January 2019, is forecast to be completed on Sept. 30, 2020.

Construction of Beach Club, which started in January 2019, is forecast to be completed on Dec. 31, 2020.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

long-term legal residents' integral role in growing and shaping the Commonwealth.

"Your bill is a positive step in resolving our community's need for stability," Chamber president Velma M. Palacios said.

"As we continue to rebuild our economy after multiple catastrophic typhoons, fluctuations in industries, and most especially now with the collapse of our economy due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Commonwealth has a dire need for a solution for our long-term workers and investors."

Velma Palacios added that the solutions outlined in the bill would provide an avenue for existing investors and foreign workers to remain in the Commonwealth, while not compromising the CNMI's border security.

## CRIPPLE

From Page 1

within the central government at this time, considering the lack of revenue coming in following the novel coronavirus outbreak, because the entire CNMI is suffering following the recent outbreak of COVID-2019.

Tenorio added that the central government has always been a partner of the educational system, a sibling even, and by filing the injunction while the economy is down, is like "fighting with a helpless sibling" and "pulling at each other's hair."

Tenorio and vice chair Herman Atalig voted no to the injunction, while Phillip Mendiola-Long, Marylou Ada, and Andrew Orsini voted yes.

PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu explained that the injunction would ask the CNMI Supreme Court to enforce its ruling in the certified question, forcing the government to change the budget and allocate 25% of the general fund to PSS.

"The governor would be one of the parties to get sued because the certified question doesn't mean that the budget changes until someone changes it. In order to force the government to enforce it, you have to bring the lawsuit," he said.

Atalig said that an injunction is selfish given the current circumstance and it would just be like kicking someone who is already lying on the floor.

"We can ask, and we can demand, as much as we want, but our government cannot and will not provide us with the financial assistance at this time. The injunction we are asking is wrong timing, we could at least defer the injunction until our government is back on its feet. Our government is lying on the ground and we are fighting with people who cannot fight back," he said.

However, Orsini said that the mandate is not for them, but for the students who serve as the future of the CNMI.

"I swore that I would do, to the best of my ability, what I can to help this institution. We don't want our children's education, jeopardized. It's the government's duty to help us and it's also the Legislature's duty to find revenue.

Orsini added that education is essential but it doesn't seem that way with the government given that PSS is still under austerity from last year and must make more cuts on top of

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh also expressed appreciation to Sablan, with hopes that the next steps would go by swiftly.

"This is great news," Cavanagh said. "I would like to thank Delegate Kilili for his hard work in D.C. I hope that the implementation will go smoothly and quickly. With the impending complications with the touchback, this will be somewhat of a relief. However we encourage our D.C. partners to readress the touchback provision to ensure continuity in our labor market."

Gerald Narciso, one of the CNMI workers advocating for H.R. 560, also expressed joy on H.R. 560 having been passed by the House of Representatives, and is hoping that the U.S. Senate would act on it soon.

the steep cuts already made.

"There is a category of people essential, or non-essential. Are we essential to this government or not, if not, then close the schools. If you cannot afford this institution, then shut it down. If the government feels that the education of their children is important, they have to do something about it," he said.

Orsini added that it's just right to throw the burden back to the government, the burden should not fall on PSS.

"How long will these financial issues last? How long will we continue to cut? For me, I want to throw this burden back at them and let them figure out what they want to do," Orsini said.

Office of the Governor press secretary Kevin Bautista said in an official statement that it is disappointing that members of BOE have decided to go this route after the collective agreement between the Office of the Governor, BOE, the Legislature, and the AG's Office to move forward together after the recent court opinion.

"In light of the coronavirus outbreak, the unanticipated downturn of our economy, and our ongoing recovery period, every department, agency, and public service is affected whether we like it or not. This action by the board will further exacerbate the government's ongoing struggles to keep all public services afloat, including educational services and salaries of teachers at PSS," he said.

Bautista explained that multiple revenue streams of the CNMI economy have been shut down due to the unanticipated novel coronavirus outbreak.

"Our administration is looking out for the entire Commonwealth as a whole—both in the public and private sectors. All areas are making cuts because there is little money coming into the CNMI. Certain members of the BOE are not being diligent in truly understanding our economic situation because when there are no tourists coming in, it means no revenue to fund services," he said.

Bautista said that the government values the education of the CNMI children and the hard work of local teachers.

"But we know that when there's no money coming into our revenue streams, cuts have had to be made across the board. Not arbitrarily. We do this just to keep public services funded at appropriate levels. That's what real leaders do during a time of economic crisis," he said.

## BOE

From Page 1

weeks to four days.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio and vice chair Herman Atalig voted yes to implementing the proposed austerity measures, while members Marylou Ada, Phillip Mendiola-Long, and Andrew Orsini voted no.

The cuts will be discussed further in another BOE board meeting that has yet to be scheduled.

PSS' proposed austerity measure was a 20% across-the-board cut that would reduce all employees by 16 hours and cut schools to just four days.

According to Kimo Rosario, PSS director of finance, the CNMI Office of Management and Budget gave PSS notice that as part of the government's austerity measures, they would cut PSS' budget by 28%, reducing their \$37.7-million budget by

\$10 million.

Rosario explained that the 28% cut would leave PSS with just \$14.8 million for the remainder of the fiscal year, adjusting their fiscal year 2020 budget just \$27 million.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that if cuts are not made and the status quo is maintained, PSS would end the year with a \$4.5 million deficit.

"If we don't do anything, we will experience payless Fridays. As much as we don't want to touch the teachers, we're in a crisis," he said.

Tenorio said that no matter how you look at the situation, cuts need to be made in order for PSS to continue operations.

"I'm sorry, we're in a well we can't climb out of. We have to entertain this," she said.

Tenorio added that delaying the cuts, which is inevitable given the CNMI's current situation, would just hurt everyone more.

slowing down in processing H2B visa applications, but that recently they received some signs it's picking up again.

"It's a good positive sign," said Poon, adding that more H2B workers are expected to join for the project.

He said they need over 1,000 H2B workers as the 480 total workers are not enough to meet the deadline to complete the project.

"But we are doing our best," he said.

Construction of the resort hotel and 14 villas are already completed. Construction of levels 3 and 13 for

## IPI

From Page 1

112 local manpower, or for a total of 480 workers.

In addition, IPI has 15 management staff.

He said the H2B workers are composed of 119 Taiwanese; three Thais; 118 Mongolians; 30 Australians; and 98 Turkish.

Poon said during last month's meeting with CCC, he reported that the U.S. Embassy was kind of



## IT&E announces cost-saving options

IT&E yesterday announced it will offer cost-saving options to its subscribers that might be affected by recent austerity measures implemented by the CNMI government.

"We understand that the recently implemented austerity measures may affect the general public and businesses. In consideration of these measures, we've decided to suspend late fees and rate increases; introduce redesigned affordable post-paid plans for residential subscribers; and offer our business subscribers options, all to help alleviate possible hardships," said IT&E CEO Jim Oehlerking.

Residential subscribers can now pay anytime within the month without worrying about being charged a late fee. Suspension date will also move to the end of the month instead of the 22nd of the month.

IT&E introduces the redesigned \$20 wireless post-paid with more data. IT&E has increased the 4G LTE data bucket plan on its original \$20 wireless plan from 200MB to 1GB. Now, customers can enjoy more wireless high speed internet service on their mobile device at a low monthly cost.

Eligible households are encouraged to sign up for the Lifeline Program. With the Lifeline Program, households that meet income requirements, or that are on government assistance, can save up to \$13.25 on their monthly plan. Visit [store.ite.net/lifeline-program-cnmi/](http://store.ite.net/lifeline-program-cnmi/) or stop by any IT&E store location for assistance.

Subscribers are encouraged to call the IT&E Customer Care Center at 682-4483, or message IT&E on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for more information.

Businesses subscribers that require further assistance with managing service payments are encouraged to contact their business account manager to discuss options.

"As a member of this community, IT&E is committed to working with the private and public sectors to find solutions with the most positive outcome for everyone," said IT&E general manager Rose Soledad.

For more information, businesses can contact the Business Sales Department at 682-2877. (PR)



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# Immediate assessment of Imperial Palace building urged

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Describing it as a project in serious trouble, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) yesterday urged the Commonwealth Casino Commission to immediately conduct a total assessment of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's ongoing construction of a casino/resort in Garapan to guarantee the building's structural integrity.

During public comments during CCC's regular monthly meeting in the conference room of CHCC at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Manglona said the Development Plan Advisory Committee is in the best position to provide with the assessment of the project, in which its implementation "is way behind schedule."

Asked for comments about the senator's recommendation, CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said the issue of the Imperial Palace Saipan building's structural integrity is an old story for CCC.

"When we started three, four years ago, there was a rumor that they were constructing it before anybody [can inspect it] on site, the building is unsafe, the building is leaning.

We found out that all of those are not true," Deleon Guerrero said.

Manglona said DPAC was originally established under the Casino License Agreement to review and advise on the design of the Integrated Resorts and the Initial Gaming Facility.

He said DPAC is required to report regularly on the status of IPI's casino project to the Governor's Office.

Manglona said the Casino License Agreement states that there shall be two members of DPAC, one selected by IPI and the other appointed by the governor.

He said both members are either an architect or engineering firm experienced in the Integrated Resort Development.

The senator said the CLA provides that all reasonable CNMI costs up to \$400,000 shall be paid by the licensee IPI.

Manglona inquired about an update on the establishment and contract of DPAC if it is true that it is no longer in operation today.

In the absence of DPAC, he asked how CCC presently addressing DPAC's authorities and responsibilities.

"We absolutely need to

have forensic evidence and design as to the corrective measures necessary to move forward with the project," the senator said.

Manglona said the assessment should require the engineer of record to conduct a forensic survey of the project to include three aspects.

He said one is the building's actual structural construction to ensure that if there are major structural misalignments or defects, building design calculations are computed factoring in the actual field conditions.

Second, he said, all certifications of concrete tests and column and beam connections such as weldings and bolts must be assessed to ensure satisfaction of strength and torque requirements.

Manglona said the third one is the geotechnical pile certification and testing to ensure the building structure's foundation integrity and that no ground settlement will occur in the future.

The assessment process, the senator pointed out, will ben-

efit both IPI and the CNMI government.

He said it will help IPI in their efforts to get new partners for additional funding by reassuring new investors that the building is structurally sound and will last for more than 40 to 50 years.

## » But CCC executive director says building's structural integrity issue old story

Manglona said it will benefit the CNMI people, who are the real owners, if for some reason IPI cannot finish the project and that there is a need to lease the property to another

developer.

"Without such an assessment, it might be impossible to find another investor with all the uncertainties surrounding the building's structural integrity," he said.

The lawmaker told the commissioners that the people of the CNMI want to see the project come to fruition as it will bring much needed financial stability to the CNMI's struggling economy.

Manglona said no one has a firm idea of when the project will be completed and may give up on trying to guess.

He said it may be that this

project has numerous defects that need to be cured and addressed.

"There is no question that IPI has lost its ability to control progress or even to ascertain the project's status with accuracy," he said.

Manglona said dozens of vendors are bringing or considering legal actions against IPI for nonpayment of contracts or services, and there has been a significant number of upper management level employee turnover in the last few years.

He said DPAC reports on project recommendations were ignored.

"All of these characteristics point to a project in serious trouble," Manglona said.

Deleon Guerrero said they actually called in members of the Department of Public Works Technical Division and N15 Architects.

He said N15 Architects is the party contracted by IPI to make sure that they meet all the DPW technical requirements.

Deleon Guerrero said they also called in inspectors from J.M. Aquino Engineering, which is the third party structural engineers.

He said they found out that

where IPI is required a certain weight of rebars, they actually put a bigger one and that according to the engineers of J.M. Aquino, is overly build or other words above specifications.

"The issue of the building leaning is untrue," the executive director said.

On DPAC, Deleon Guerrero said DPAC group no longer joins them.

He said there was an issue of if they are really still needed at this point because there is a multi-department involvement in the project.

"DPAC is like the government's way of seeing this is our eyes and ears to the governor," he said.

He said DPW is the main department that oversees the structural and the building code itself.

"They are on top of this," Deleon Guerrero said.

He noted that one of the amendments to the casino agreement require that IPI works with DPW on a weekly basis, to make sure that every phase of this project is cleared with DPW.

"This is a multi-jurisdictional project," he said, adding that Zoning Board is also involved in monitoring.

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## Tax relief on importation of eco-friendly products proposed

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce proposed for a tax relief on the purchase and importation of eco-friendly products during a hearing for the Styrofoam Ban Bill (House Bill 21-89) at the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism yesterday on Capital Hill.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), intends to phase out the use of certain disposable food service containers made of expanded polystyrene (EPS), more known as Styrofoam, on 2022.

While acknowledging the negative impacts of Styrofoam and agreeing that the CNMI should deter the importation of products based on it, the Chamber has proposed that instead of banning its use and importation, tax incentives be provided instead to businesses that would import eco-friendly products.

Chamber board of directors president Velma M. Palacios stated in a letter to Committee chair Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) that "rather than banning the use and importation of Styrofoam, the SCC supports incentivizing wholesalers and businesses to import biodegradable, environment-friendly products through tax incentives."

"I know that a lot of people have talked about what what's the impact on businesses, but at the end of the day, the businesses are just going to transfer that cost to the end consumer. So if the businesses are paying more for those products, everybody's going to be paying more," Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo said at the public hearing.

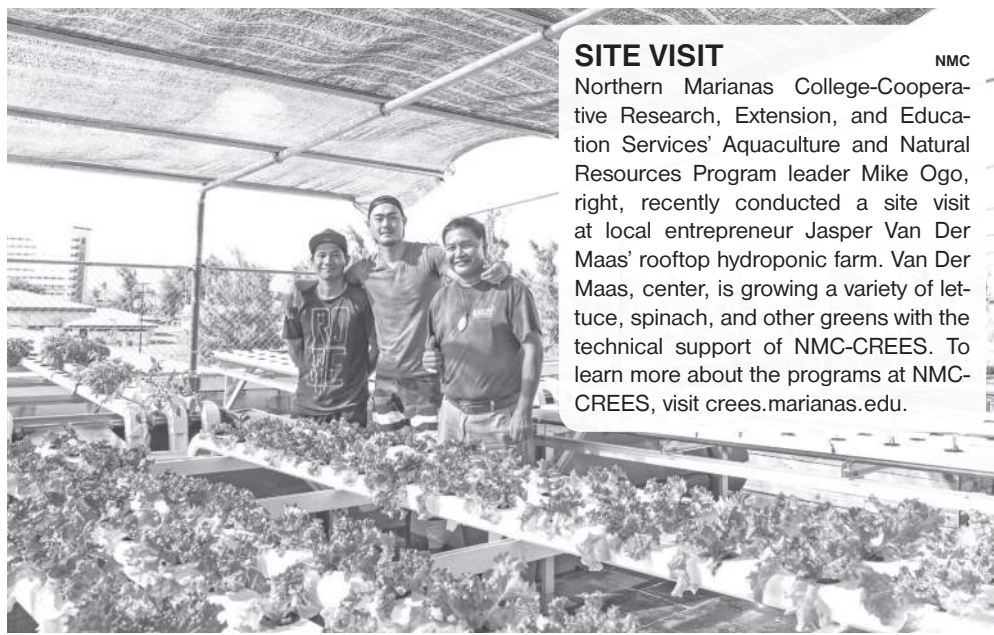
The Chamber claimed that the environment-friendly alternative containers are more costly to purchase and import, and that providing

tax relief would make its cost comparable to Styrofoam, adding that doing so ultimately would lead to less cost on the consumers.

"This action would show the CNMI government cares equally as much about investing in our future as the businesses who would then choose to participate for the betterment of our environment," Palacios added.

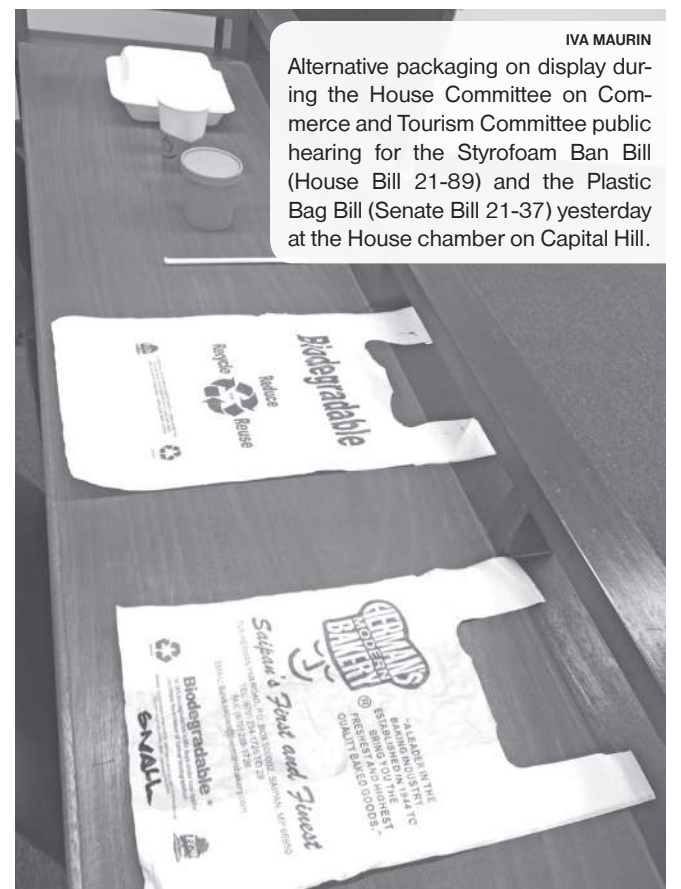
As if anticipating comments on cost, Blanco, author of the bill, submitted before the committee locally manufactured alternative products made from betel nut sheath and banana fiber, which are "zero cost from our natural resources, and can be sourced locally."

Blanco said that the products were "manufactured locally in our sister islands," and added that such can be manufactured in the CNMI as well, to sell locally and tap the Guam market, for starters.



### SITE VISIT

NMC Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services' Aquaculture and Natural Resources Program leader Mike Ogo, right, recently conducted a site visit at local entrepreneur Jasper Van Der Maas' rooftop hydroponic farm. Van Der Maas, center, is growing a variety of lettuce, spinach, and other greens with the technical support of NMC-CREES. To learn more about the programs at NMC-CREES, visit [crees.marianas.edu](http://crees.marianas.edu).



IVA MAURIN

Alternative packaging on display during the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism Committee public hearing for the Styrofoam Ban Bill (House Bill 21-89) and the Plastic Bag Bill (Senate Bill 21-37) yesterday at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

## Daniel Han named to Dean's List at Boston University

**BOSTON, Mass.**—Daniel Han, a resident of Saipan, has recently been named to the Dean's List at Boston University for the Fall semester.

Each school and college at Boston University has their own criterion for the Dean's List, but students generally must attain a 3.5 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), or be in the top 30 percent of their class, as well as a full-course load as a full-time student.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. Consisting of 16 schools and colleges, BU offers students

more than 250 programs of study in science and engineering, social science and humanities, health science, the arts, and other professional disciplines, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University's research and teaching mission. With more than 33,000 students, BU is the fourth-largest private university in the country and a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU), a nonprofit association of 62 of North America's leading research-intensive institutions. (PR)

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## Demapan sworn as newest SHEFA board member

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang swore in Kaelani Babauta Demapan as the newest board member of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"I feel very honored to be a part of the board and I look forward to working with our

current board members to be able to have a balance," said Demapan. She also added that she hopes to fulfill the duties that the late Ursula Lifofoi-Aldan, who passed away last September, had done during her term.

Demapan will continue to serve the remaining term of

Lifofoi-Aldan's term making SHEFA's board members complete.

She will be part of SHEFA's Policy and Procedures Committee.

Demapan expects to work

with current board members along with the community to find ways to provide more financial assistance to students which includes the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institution,

as well as off-island students.

Apatang nominated Demapan to the SHEFA board due to her accomplished academic track.

Demapan also received help from SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Fund during her time pursuing her bachelor's

degree in psychology from Chaminade University in Honolulu, where she finished cum laude then continued to further her education and earned a master's degree in Higher Education from the University of Michigan. (*Justine Nauta*)



JUSTINE NAUTA

Kaelani Babauta Demapan, left, is sworn in by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as the newest board member of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**KagES postpones move to old campus postponed**

Kagman Elementary School has postponed the move to its old campus due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the management's control at the school level.

KagES management said the move back to the old campus will have to be postponed until further notice. The original target date of moving back to the old campus was supposed to be on Monday, March 2.

As of date, KagES will continue to conduct half-day sessions at ChaCha Oceanview Middle School from 7:30am to 11:30am.

KagES management said they will continue to update stakeholders regarding their power issue, and also be giving them advance notice on when they are ready to move back to

their KagES campus. (PR)

**500 Sails offers free swim classes to women in February and March**

In partnership with Commonwealth Women's Association, 500 Sails is offering free swim classes for women and girls 12 and older through the Sirena Project. Below are the newly announced March dates, including two Fridays, Saturdays this February and March 2020, plus on March 20 and March 27. All classes are from 10am to 11am at Guma Sakman; all levels welcome. Bring a water bottle, swim clothes, a towel, and a friend.

For more information: email info@500sails.org, visit website at www.500sails.org, follow www.facebook.com/500SailsDoIphinClubSaipan, or call Emma Perez at 670-285-4268. (PR)

**BECQ to hold another beach cleanup**

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be organizing its third cleanup activity this year at Obyan Beach on March 7, 2020.

Volunteers who would like to come out and help can meet at Obyan Beach from 8am to 10am. Volunteers will be given water, gloves, trash bags, and pickers while supplies last.

Every month, BECQ's Cleanup Brigade would choose an area where to pick up trash every first Saturday of the month. (PR)

**NMHC offers loan deferment assistance**

Due to the impending austerity measures and the anticipated economic hardships as a result of the decline in the tourism industry as affected by the suspension of visitor ar-

rivals from China and reduced flights from Korea, most, if not all Northern Marianas Housing Corp. clients will somehow be affected.

Therefore, NMHC will place a blanket deferment assistance of all of its loans for a period of three months, which will begin March 1, 2020, and will end on May 31, 2020. Interest shall not accrue during the three-month period. Beginning June 1, 2020, all loans will be reinstated to their regular monthly payments and an additional three months will be added on to the loan maturity.

If you do not wish to avail of this assistance, you must provide NMHC an official cancellation notice of the deferment assistance being offered.

Should you have any further questions, contact the Mortgage & Credit Division at telephone numbers 234-6866/9447/7689/7670. (PR)

**'Walk for Parents' tomorrow**

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services is inviting the public to a "Walk for Parents" event tomorrow, Feb. 29. Registration for the walk is free and will begin at 6am at the Oleai Beach Pavilion. The route will be from the Oleai Beach Pavilion to Quartermaster Road and back.

Walk for Parents is a morning walk to recognize and show appreciation for all parents in the CNMI and is the closing event for the CNMI's Parent Leadership Month.

For more information, call the DCCA-DYS Parent Education Program at 237-1015/1017. (PR)

**SHEFA supporting documents deadline**

The deadline to submit all supporting documents for those applying for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is today, Feb. 28. Office hours is from 7:30am to 4:30pm. If you have any questions, contact the SHEFA office at 233-5995, 235-1020/21. (PR)

**E-File & Serve having technical glitches**

The CNMI Judiciary's electronic filing system, E-File & Serve, is currently experiencing technical difficulties. Until further notice, all persons seeking to file and serve with either the

Supreme Court or the Superior Court must file and serve in accordance with the Commonwealth Rules of Practice and the Commonwealth Rules for Electronic Filing and Service. For more information, contact the following individuals: Gretchen A. Smith, Clerk of Court, CNMI Supreme Court, at (670) 236-9715 or email gretchen.smith@nmijudiciary.com; or Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-5248 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. (PR)

**DPR oversight hearing postponed**

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—The Committee on Heritage and the Arts, Parks, Guam Products, Hagåtña Revitalization, Self-Determination, and Regional Affairs' oversight hearing for the Department of Parks and Recreation, which was scheduled for today, Feb. 28, at 5:15pm, has been postponed.

Guam Sen. Marsh Taitano stated, "The general public will be informed of a rescheduled hearing date." (PR)

**Guam Youth Congress convenes tomorrow**

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—The 32nd Guam Youth Congress will be called into session tomorrow, Feb. 29, at 9am in the Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña. (PR)

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**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council**

P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6536

TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2020 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 05, 2020 at Ete Café, Saipan from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2019 SRC & SILC Fourth General Joint Membership meeting minutes of September 30, 2019.
- V. Reports
  - A. SRC Interim Chairperson
    - i. Introduction of New Members
  - B. OVR Director
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Sub-Committee Goals
- VII. New Business
  - A. Election SRC Chairperson
  - B. Committee Appointments
    - i. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
    - ii. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
    - iii. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
  - C. SRC and SILC Training/Orientation for New Members
  - D. Revision of By-Laws
- VIII. Announcements
  - A. Voices of the CNMI (Robert Mendiola & Monika Diaz)
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Tomeko Kaipat at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Friday, February 28, 2020.

/s/ Hilma Castro,  
Interim Chairperson

*This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*





# My Sentiments

**H**afa Adai, Tirow, Colleagues and my dear stakeholders of public education Ensuring that the Public School System (PSS) receives its constitutionally-mandated funds has always been our priority as members of the State Board of Education (BOE). And during these past four (4) years or so, the impact caused by two (2) major typhoons (*Super Typhoons Soudelor and Yutu*) and other external factors (*the lack of additional government revenue, no new revenue collection, drop in arrivals, etc., among others*), have amplified yet again the financial situation we are all facing. This has led us to engage actively with our lawmakers, the Governor, the Secretary of Finance and his key department-heads.

Our strong ties with our legislative and executive branches of government allowed us to navigate the challenges of the PSS when it comes to its funding needs. What we have achieved over the past couple of years were not perfect or permanent solutions. But the core of all our efforts is engagement; it has worked in our favor, in our PSS's favor. As partners, we were able to produce workable solutions despite many circumstances and challenges that beset the Commonwealth this past four (4) years.

Paramount to our fiduciary duties as the Board is to protect the interest and welfare of our public school students, personnel and staff—the stakeholders of public education. In protecting these duties, we also have to commit to work together, to engage – hand-in-hand – with all of our partners in government, including our private sector.

I must respectfully apologize here if I am going to be critical. Very recently, we have steered away from the path of engagement and negotiations. We have become unwilling to go back to the table and have become more recalcitrant.

While there is no other perfect solution to the funding challenges the CNMI is facing, I still believe that – and based on my experience

*in the government and the private sector – and, given the competing priorities and needs of the government, the only viable approach is and only through healthy discussions/negotiations.*

Let us accept the reality that there is no new source of revenue for this government. The *only new source* is the new and unexpected challenge/difficulty that has already punctured our ailing travel/tourism sector: the COVID-19 or corona virus.

Look around or talk to your friends in the private sector. Have you heard that three (3) of the six (6) major hotels on island have already reduced its working hours? Their occupancy is down to its lowest in nearly twenty (20) years – to a meager ten (10) percent?

It's just a matter of time the others will follow suit. Restaurants are empty. There are less activities that can be seen in our hospitality/travel sector—the main source of our government's revenue. I am not sounding the alarm bells here but I am actually sharing with you what I know is the true and honest picture that we are facing. The sudden drop in our arrivals and dip in government revenue are the primary challenge this government is facing.

*The vital of the situation is beyond our control. Suing the government will only inflame the situation.*

In case you haven't heard, they are now instituting across-the-board cut, effective March 15. *There is a serious situation.* We need to trust this government – its finance advisors to do what is best to mitigate the growing challenges we are facing. Do you think they will allow PSS to fall apart and be remiss in meeting its constitutional mandate?

*Trust is the fundamental key here. Let us support this government by trusting to do what is right for us, for our children, for the parents, for the community.*

The facts are already out. In a matter of time, the executive branch will submit to the House of Representatives the revised revenue project for the CNMI government for Fiscal 2020 – and you know it

already: A huge drop in revenue (of about \$48 million – enough to provide services of about six (6) to seven (7) government departments, agencies and divisions; that cut in revenue is almost the one-year funding level of PSS).

How do we respond to this? How do we approach this? What is our solution when we know that PSS – as a non-revenue generating entity – only relies on funding being earmarked to us and based on the available resources generated locally.

*We have to adapt to these unforeseen circumstances:* the government has just no new source of revenue. It is NOT only PSS that is going to be hit hard; it's the entire government—the largest employment source in the CNMI, including the parents and guardians of our public school students.

If we as the BOE demand that PSS be paid based on what is both constitutionally and statutorily-mandated annual funding earmarked to PSS, where does this leave the government? *What options are we giving the central government?*

*The effect of us forcing through court intervention or injunction will further or may compel the central government to initiate further cuts—on the top of the scheduled 64-hour workweek operation. They can implement higher taxes, raise fees and add new surcharges on all that basic essentials. Or, worse terminate hundreds of government workers. Who knows what might happen after that ... It will affect the children of this commonwealth and the parents of our children, those we educate!!*

I am presenting realistic scenarios of what will happen to our partners – the central government – when we allow the court to intervene on PSS' behalf. We care – *I do care* – for the children of this commonwealth. But, us forcing the issue *will not help our children*, whose parents are, largely, employed by the central government. Yes, the central government is the largest employment source for our people – including the parents of our PSS

children, teachers – the children/students that you have now...in your classrooms. The sole provider within the family are about to go into a 64-hour work implementation. It is sad, that we as the BOE don't see that.

BOE and PSS family, by filing an injunction or forcing the central government to remit what is owed to PSS, to you, will further worsen the situation. Think about it. I am worried of the ripple effect from our action today if we pursue another legal means to compel the central government to give us the money. There are other departments, agencies and employees of this government that will feel the effect of our actions. I prepared this talking point for me to help bring some clarity to the situation: WE, PSS and BOE, should be one and together in facing the challenges of the CNMI government.

The situation is horrifying. I cannot put it in words nor describe the challenges this government – which we all belong to – is facing. We, the people of the CNMI belong to the CNMI government and will need to gather hand-in-hand to come up with a solution rather than being part of a problem. This is not new to us. Our ability to reach out with our partners over the past years, we managed to handle similar situation. We looked at the family roots, traditional cultural and mostly being humble and respectful to one another.

We are in this together.

How much information do we need from the central government when we know that they have been forthright and straightforward on revenue collections? But instead, we turn around and some of us accuse the central government of “hiding the truth” when we know the real situation. The numbers won't lie.

*I am appealing to all you:* Let us be open-minded and not capitalize on the current situation to bash or defame this government because “they are lying; they are not honest with the government finances”. *If we file an injunction, or pursue legal remedy, it will not help the relationship that we have built*

*mitigate the situation.*

We already have our certified question answered. Let's respect the decision and allow the process to go through.

We have not received all our FEMA funding yet. Let's work on that. Let's work in rebuilding our schools. Let us find a way on how we can address internally our challenges. Let's work in partnership. Let us stand together and alongside our partners in government. They are facing the same challenges that we are in.

For the Students, For our CNMI, Let us remain as ONE.

Janice A. Tenorio, M. Ed.  
Chairperson



## Why I do NOT support the Filing of an Injunction:

**T**he CNMI Public School System (PSS) is entitled to 25% of any supplemental appropriations made by the government..... that the PSS budget may not be deceased unless the Governor actually transmits a special message that there is a budget shortfall. If he does not, PSS cannot be cut. If PSS files an Injunction against the Governor, this means that we are spared from the cut.

An injunction is a court order requiring a person to do or cease doing a specific action. There are three types of injunctions: Injunctions, Temporary and preliminary injunctions. Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) and Preliminary injunctions are in nature. They can be issued by the judge early in a lawsuit to stop the defendant from continuing his or her allegedly harmful actions. Choosing whether to grant temporary injunctive relief is up to the discretion of the court. Permanent injunctions are issued as a final judgment in a case, where monetary damages will not suffice. Failure to comply with an injunction may result in being held in contempt of court, which in turn may result in either criminal or civil liability. See, e.g., *Roe v. Wade* 410 US 113 (1973).

In the past two (2) months, I attest the Secretary of Finance, Mr. David Atalig, giving us the necessary amount of the projected allotment

and whatever cash he collects, daily. In the first fiscal quarter, the Office of Management and Budget gave us more than the funds that we needed. They did not have to. Every day, we call the Secretary Atalig to ask how much was collected and how he needs to transfer. Most of the time, he manages to give us some or all of the request. The Office of the Governor, the Secretary of Finance and the Legislature has been supporting us in this trying time. They are scrambling to transfer to the largest government entity, the CNMI Public School System. We have a healthy relationship with this administration at this time because they know the value of Education and will not allow us to fail.

Given the economic crisis

we are facing, implementing the injunction is not the right time. At the moment we are scrambling for cash flow into the CNMI revenues and the daily collections are not sufficient. We need \$1.3M every two (2) weeks. The CNMI PSS Key Management Team have proposed eight (8) different scenarios of cost-cutting, saving plan but none of them were favorable to the State Board of Education. Filing an Injunction is the last resort but the timing is not fitting. I do not believe in enforcing the law because the law is heartless. I believe that through communication and understanding, we can have our needs met.

Regards,  
Alfred B. Ada, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education



## My Sense of Community



Herman M. Atalig, (SGM) Ret.  
Vice Chairperson

**I**believe we need to consider the detrimental and ripple effects that it will have on the entire CNMI workforce if this injunction is served today. By PSS not sharing the burden of the economic storm, this will further contribute to the financial damage of many other government agencies by more than the projected 64-hour cut. The harsh reality is that we are in a financial deficit and with the current moratorium on tourists from China and other countries, it has paralyzed our economy.

It takes an entire community to educate a child. PSS cannot stand alone. Our success is contingent on healthy partnerships with parents, businesses, and government agencies. I was brought up in two (2) cultures; as an islander and veteran, where we believed in the importance of selflessness and that we must all work together for the good of all. In a time of need we pulled together and made sacrifices.

Since most of our student's parents are employed by the government, we must be sensitive to the financial hardships at home which will ultimately impact our students' learning and emotional welfare.

While I fully understand my fiduciary responsibility and obligation as a Board Member, my PSS familia, your needs and concerns have and will always be forefront in my heart. But I ask you to reflect on the CNMI's survival as a whole. Because at this time in our CNMI History, I must make a decision that takes into consideration the PSS family, our parents and students. My conscience is guiding me to assist all agencies and departments.

For the past several months, the Commissioner of Education (COE), Department of Finance and Human Resources, as well as the Key Management, worked extensively to develop seven (7) contingency plans to weather this financial storm together. I believe it would be unfair on our part not to reach out and help in sharing the burden as well as being part of the solution.

In closing, we are one CNMI, let's pride ourselves on who we are as a united family.” Therefore, I cannot in good faith support the injunction.



# More parking and one-way streets coming to Garapan

The Garapan Revitalization Task Force, led by the Office of Planning & Development under the Office of the Governor, has begun taking steps to improve the flow of traffic in Western Garapan.

In partnership with the Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, who are members of the GRTF, it was determined that in order to improve overall traffic flow, promote the safety and well-being of pedestrians and moving vehicles, and increase

public parking space in the primary commercial district of the Commonwealth, certain streets must be designated one-way streets in Western Garapan, otherwise known as Garapan Core or Hotel Street.

These modifications will help ensure a safer environment for residents and visitors. Upon completion of this entire project, it is estimated that the plan will allow approximately 300 parking spaces available for public use. The Tournament of Champions non-profit organization, whose mission is to support island beautification

and enhancement projects, has donated directional signs valued at \$13,385.55, with additional support coming from Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. DPW will be responsible for signage installation.

"The Garapan Revitalization Plan is a major priority for our administration. We believe these steps taken by the Task Force will go a long way toward relieving the concerns regarding traffic flow and parking in our main commercial district. This is especially important as we continue to strengthen our tourism indus-

try in the wake of this anticipated economic downturn. We commend OPD, DPW, DFEMS, and the rest of the Task Force for leading this effort, and we thank the TOC and Safety 1st for their generous contributions," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"The overall goal of the GRTF is to transform the Garapan Core and its immediate vicinity into a world-class tourist destination in and of itself. The Task Force has been working diligently toward improving the area, while simultaneously working on the

larger objective of securing federal funding to undertake a complete overhaul and rehabilitation of Garapan Core. We are certain these incremental steps will have a positive impact on the businesses in the area, and will encourage more residents and visitors to frequent Garapan as more parking spaces open up and streets become more navigable," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

"The Task Force has been meeting regularly the past few months to discuss ways to improve the overall experience

for drivers and pedestrians in the Garapan Core. DFEMS reviewed existing fire lanes and determined many can be removed to allow for more street parking. We worked with DPW to map out which streets should be designated one-way, and in which direction, based on their existing traffic plans. What the Garapan Core lacks is a sense of order so modifying select streets to make them one-way will allow for parallel street parking on one side, while leaving room on the

**See PARKING on Next Page**



**CDA**  
**Commonwealth Development Authority**  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147  
www.developcnmi.com



## CDA announces continued support for CDA Clients/Business Owners impacted by recent regional and global events

(Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), February 25th, 2020)

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), with the support of the CDA Board of Directors, joins the CNMI community in doing our very best to stay calm, focused, efficient, and effective, with an unwavering commitment to providing support and assistance for business retention and expansion of our current CDA clients and the entire CNMI business(private)sector, who are committed to surviving this economic downturn by continuing to operate and manage their businesses, while we all look for innovative and effective strategies in being even more resilient in a tough economic environment.

CDA offers on-going support and assistance for their clients/business owners, on a case to case basis, by seeking ways to provide logical and long term relief, given the anticipated length and severity of the current regional and global economic situation, most especially, due to recent and unfolding events. CDA welcomes and appreciates any other suggestions in providing support and relief. Here are some of the effective options borrowers have considered:

- 1) **Loan revisions** provides lowered monthly payments and with longer terms for relief and repayment.
- 2) **New loan requests** for existing business owners provides working capital to cover business needs and obligations, or to fund new business ideas and other business support.
- 3) **Payment deferrals**: Based on verification of income and resources, CDA may provide temporary relief from monthly loan payment. Depending on the amount of those requests, CDA may need to consider whether to restrict new loan applications, if necessary, to prevent further anticipated losses.

CDA is equally committed to supporting and assisting aspiring business entrepreneurs and existing businesses by continuing with their existing loan programs for business loans up to \$150,000, by not imposing a restriction on new loans, to help provide financing for start-up costs and working capital for those who are also interested in realizing their dreams of providing a service or a product, which helps to create and retain jobs that also facilitates growth to provide a stable tax base that supports public services.

The CDA Loan department team is readily available and happy to assist. Contact us at:

**Fred C. Cruz** (670) 234-6245 ext. 305 or email: f.cruz@developcnmi.com

**Abby C. Atalig** (670) 234-6245 ext. 309 or email: a.atalig@developcnmi.com

**Marie Coleman** (670) 234-6245 ext. 307 or email: m.coleman@developcnmi.com

Or, visit us at the ground floor office located in the CDA Building, Beach road, San Jose, Saipan (across from Oleai Beach Bar & Grill)

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
CDA Executive Director



**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
TSA RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM**

## PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport TSA Recapitalization Program Project, No. CPA-SA-006-16, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: February 27, 2020



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrim.gov.mp](http://www.dcrim.gov.mp)



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**DATE: February 28, 2020**

**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey regarding the temporary installation of one tide buoy in two separate locations in CNMI. The buoy will be installed at Tanapag Lagoon, Saipan and then at Maug in the Northern Islands in order to continuously record the height of the surrounding water level at different times from April – September 2020.

For more information about the project, please proceed to the following link: <https://dcrim.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/Marianas-2020-CNMI-CZMA-Addendum-for-Buoy.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally-approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at [fedcon@dcrim.gov.mp](mailto:fedcon@dcrim.gov.mp).

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on February 28, 2020 and ending on March 14, 2020. We look forward to your input.



**DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN****Torres requests banks to grant deferments for residents**

On Monday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wrote letters to all CNMI banks respectfully requesting them to consider providing a three-month grace period for all loans, mortgages, promissory notes, and other monetary obligations owed from residents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during this economic downturn as a result of the unanticipated impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak, which has affected the global economy and CNMI tourism.

In his letter to the banks, Torres said the deferments would provide residents with the peace of mind during these challenging economic times.

"The grace period would provide our residents, your customers, a prolonged state of financial stability—free from the worry and anxiety of being able to make their payments. This gesture would grant them with the opportunity to make adjustments and plan appropriately to these unanticipated [economic] effects. Moreover, our residents and your customers will then be able to earn the money to repay their obligations," said Torres.

He noted that the banks will

contribute significantly to the rebuilding of the Commonwealth and our economy while avoiding the disruption of fore-

closures and collection actions.

"We value our islands' banks as strong partners during good and bad economic

conditions. They have played a critical role when Super Typhoon Yutu devastated our islands, and they were proac-

tive in relieving the financial burdens of our residents. Their generous acts for our community go a long way, because

we want to make sure our residents are taken cared of during these hard times," Torres added. **(PR)**

**PARKING**

From Page 12

other for through-traffic and emergency vehicles to pass. One of the top concerns of the community is the lack of parking in Garapan so the Task Force determined this is the most practical way to alleviate these concerns," said OPD's Christopher A. Concepcion.

The GRTF consists of government agencies and private businesses including the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Department of Finance, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Safety, DFS Saipan, Ltd., Hyatt Regency Saipan, I Love Saipan, Imperial Pacific Resort, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., Marianas Visitors Authority, National Park Service,

Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Office of Planning & Development, PDM Promoters, Inc., Saipan Zoning Office, Tan Holdings Corp., and Triple J Saipan, Inc.

The proposed street directional changes include the following:

■ Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.

one-way westbound from Beach Rd. to Coral Tree Ave.

■ Royal Palm Ave. one-way northbound from Cpl. Derence Jack Rd. to Micro Beach Rd.

■ Coffee Tree Mall one-way southbound from Coconut St. to Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.

■ Coffee Tree Mall one-

way southbound from Micro Beach Rd. to Palm St.

■ Ginger Ave. one-way northbound from Cpl. Derence Jack Rd. to Coconut St.

■ Ginger Ave. one-way northbound from Palm St. to Micro Beach Rd.

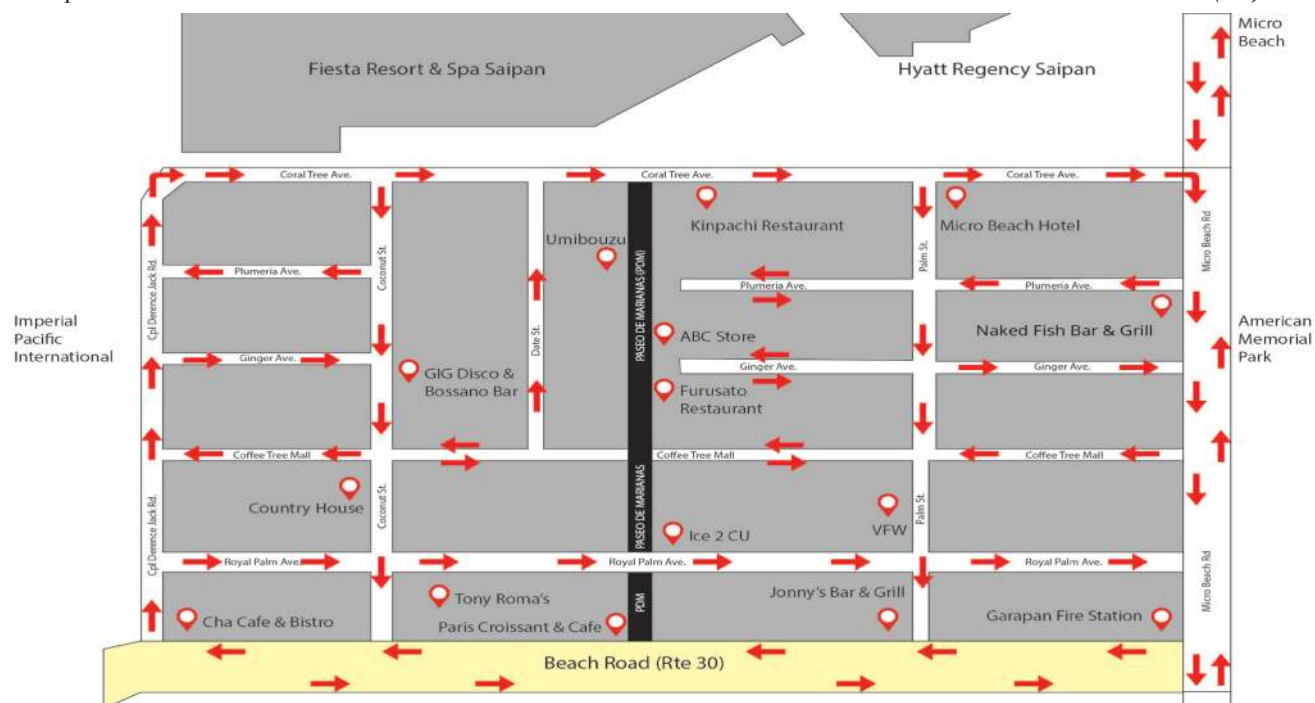
■ Plumeria Ave. one-way southbound from Coconut St.

to Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.

■ Plumeria Ave. one-way southbound from Micro Beach Rd. to Palm St.

■ Coconut St. one-way eastbound from Coral Tree Ave. to Beach Rd.

■ Date St. one-way westbound from Coffee Tree Mall to Coral Tree Ave. **(PR)**



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NEX Mini Mart/Gas Station  
Tumon

**SAIPAN LOCATIONS:**

Chalan Piao  
Gualo Rai  
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan

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# Opinion

Hafa Adail

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Russia is still trying to tear the United States apart

**R**ussia, an FBI official said on Monday, wants Americans to “tear ourselves apart” as we head toward the November election.

The U.S. seems to be complying.

Just last week came the news of a Feb. 13 congressional briefing on Moscow’s ongoing attack on the 2020 election, in which officials reportedly said Russia was working in support of President Donald Trump, just as it did in 2016 according to an intelligence report issued in 2017 by the Office of Director of National Intelligence.

While the account of what was said Feb. 13 is in dispute, the Capitol Hill briefing reportedly enraged the president, who subsequently replaced an intelligence veteran, Joseph Maguire, as acting director of national intelligence, with Richard Grenell, a loyalist with no relevant intelligence background.

A day after that move, Americans learned that the intelligence community believes Russia is also working on behalf of Sen. Bernie Sanders as its preferred candidate in the race for the Democratic nomination.

The seemingly contradictory moves made sense to some Americans when viewed through an ideological lens, given Trump’s repeated rhetorical affinity for Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as newly resurfaced interviews with Sanders in which he defended the Soviet Union, Cuba and Nicaragua.

But Moscow’s ultimate goal could be to sow chaos, which would limit America’s ability, if not willingness, to confront Russia’s revanchism — destabilizing actions like the illegal annexation of Crimea and its immoral rescue of the homicidal Assad regime in Syria.

“I would classify what the Russian influence operations do as equal-opportunity hyperpartisan,” Graham Brookie, director of the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab, told an editorial writer. “They will prey on any division in order to exacerbate that,” Brookie said. “America’s divisions make America less capable of confronting Russia, about playing the traditional role of America’s leadership” in the world.

And so sowing divides, especially via social media, is designed to weaken an American resolve that has served as a bulwark against Russian, and formerly Soviet, geopolitical aggression.

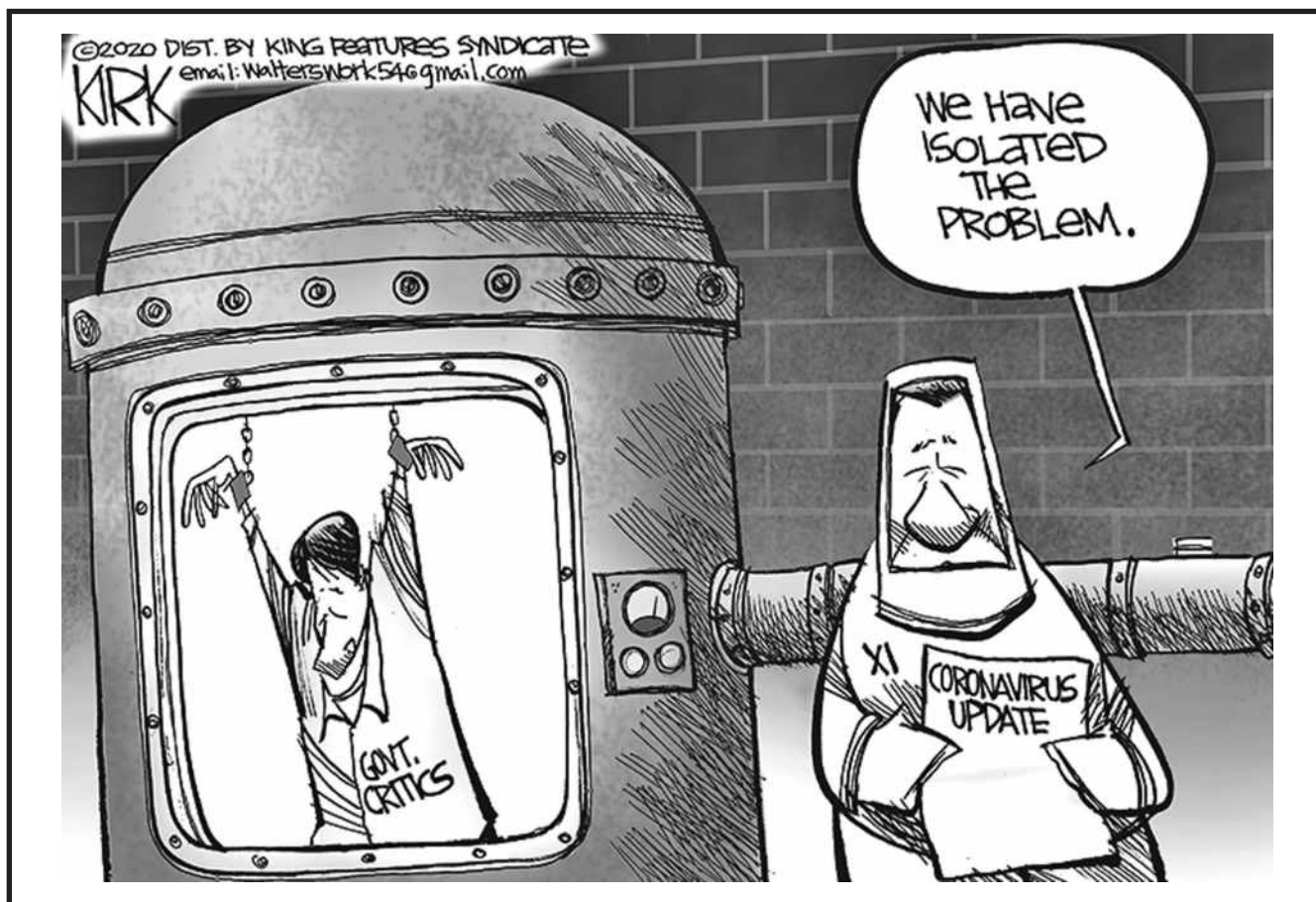
Russia is advancing an “information confrontation,” David Porter, an assistant section chief with the FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force, said at a Monday election security conference in Washington. “The primary objective is not to create a particular version of the truth but rather to cloud the truth and erode our ability to find it, creating a sentiment that no narrative or news source can be trusted at all.”

But of course there are news sources, government officials and outside experts who provide accurate and transparent reporting that can be trusted.

That’s why Trump’s denigration of a phantom “deep state” and some media outlets as “fake news” or “enemies of the American people” is so deleterious to the U.S. and only serves to indirectly advance Russia’s aim of weakening America while justifying the corruption of its own democracy.

Russia will likely continue its assault. The U.S. government — and most importantly, everyday Americans — must not be fooled.

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### Cliché or adage?

**C**lichés abound that describe finding opportunity inside of adversity. Buy low, sell high. Napoleon Hill’s “Within every adversity is the seed of an equal or greater benefit.” And many more that we all have heard. Sometimes these adages resonate with us because of some pressing set of current circumstances, often they just roll off our backs like water off a duck.

We are smack in the middle of the poster child for adversity vs opportunity in the form of a bad and growing worse economy with little end in sight. With all else already headed downhill along comes Covid-19/Corona virus kicking us, and many other economies in the stomach while we are down. All Chinese flights stopped, reduced flights from Korea, austerity measures, reduced hours, reduced income...you know the drill.

So where could we find a benefit in all that mess? Right in front of us. Every car that gets repo’d is an opportunity to buy it and resell at a profit, likewise houses, property, jewelry just about everything up and down the scale of value from a \$5 flea market item to a house on the hill. What is the downside? Getting started is hard, while you can gain, you can also lose, you could miss the correct buy/sell timing. Careful planning and doing your homework on item values can solve most of those potential glitches. Maybe the hardest one is the first one mentioned...just getting started.

For every person who has been frugal in the boom times and has put aside some cash or other liquid assets, there are many who did not. If you are one of the latter it is certainly harder to start if you have to do it out of current, reduced income, but still it is possible, just harder. Of those who did save the other obstacle is fear of failure that stops your good idea from every getting off the ground. It takes courage to buck the crowd. Everyone else is selling and here you are hanging out there like a leaf in the wind, or so it seems at the time.

The Great Depression wiped out many a fortune, closed down many a business, and bankrupted many a family. It also spawned a lot of millionaires (when a million bucks was really a huge amount compared to the average income). Every one of new those millionaires sucked it up and overcame their fear, bought what looked like a smoking deal, a house at ½ price or less, a business with hard assets but no cash flow quickly heading downhill etc. Then working hard and waiting for the right time to build it up or sell it, they profited greatly. You can too.

Are you guaranteed to become a millionaire? No, but you could stumble into a deal that good if you are actively looking and if you are prepared to act when you find it. If you only came out of the back end of this downturn \$20,000 ahead that would be better than sitting and waiting for no benefit at all at the end when prices and values begin to rise again. One of the most expensive cars you could buy during the Depression was the Pierce

By **BRUCE BATEMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.*

Arrow Twenty Grand which cost, you guessed it \$20,000. Very few were made and very few were purchased because \$20K seemed an obscene price to pay for a car then. Now it buys a cheesy Toyota compact car. Even so if you profited enough to buy outright for cash a cheesy new Toyota at the end of this downturn because you overcame your fear and bought while others sold, that wouldn’t be too bad would it?

Check it out. Do some homework. Start looking for opportunities and you very well may find some. One thing is for sure, if you don’t look you are guaranteed not to find one.

### Plastic or trash

The legislators are getting antsy as the session wears on. Each wants to be able to point at something they accomplished, even if it is meaningless, even if it actually is counterproductive, even if it is based on misinterpreted data, even if it is downright ridiculous. In this case it is H.B. 21-89 (Styrofoam) and even worse is S.B. 21-37 (one use plastic). Both of these feel-good, hug-a-tree-today bills take us backwards not forwards in our attempts to recycle and reuse.

Spend the money you would waste trying to enforce this bill on trash collection instead. The comparatively tiny amount of Saipan plastic that ends up in the water is insignificant compared to the amount that washes up on our shores from point sources elsewhere. Spend all that extra money you have laying around on a concerted effort to pick up and properly dispose of all that flotsam and jetsam that winds up on our beaches washed up by the ocean waves.

While you are at it spend the money funding regular trash pickup at all public beaches. Meaning several times per day on weekends, and at least daily on less used beach days. Spend enforcement money making sure commercial trash companies keep their dumpsters emptied regularly enough so there is no overflow.

First and foremost, almost none of the so-called one use plastic here on Saipan gets used a number of times. Styrofoam go-boxes from restaurants get reused for a number of things at my house and yours too probably. I feed my dogs in those trays. If the leftovers I bring home are suitable I feed them to the dogs right after arriving home. Then reuse that same container at least

See **CLICHÉ** on Next Page



# Coronavirus spreads

**W**e know it as the COVID-19 (coronavirus) a fatal respiratory disease. It fills the lungs with fluid and denies airflow that leads to death. It is now in most parts of the world that renders economic activities down to a grinding halt.

Virologists work the clock to produce the right medication to stem the humongous spread of the virus. However, it would take another 1,800 months before the right vaccine is found, according to recent medical reports.

It makes sense a recent decision by the administration to keep tourists from China from visiting the islands. Loss of \$40 million is better than billions of dollars to deal with a disease that kills! No room for humiliating *lamañana*!

**Accountability:** Someone suggested that we press harder holding public officials accountable for their performance or non-performance. The apparent intent is to keep them on their toes fulfilling fiduciary duty. Seems a quiet sentiment headed toward implosion.

Questions they've asked include: What have you done to improve the poverty income of more than 15,000 employees over the last year? Or are you quietly humming "que sera" hoping tons of "biba" would blur your inaction and negligence? How about factual answers this trip to the mount?

**Less+:** The mounting financial straits here would be a difficult trip up ahead. It makes prudent spending obligatory given the revenue degeneration. The economic decline is seemingly part of the global descend its influence landing on our shores too.

Moreover, every agency is adversely affected by the reduction. The only two agencies whose budget is ensured breathing

room are health and education. It's about the health of our people and future of our kids.

Global economists have asserted that regardless of the trigger there's the inevitable reduction in financial resources on a world-wide basis. Countries should begin seeing recovery as the rest of the global village returns to normalcy.

It should take several years before this is fully realized. It's this vacuum that is itself the real challenge.

Here at home, some 15,000 employees are earning poverty income wages and salaries. Perplexing that it ruins quality of life at home yet policymakers are snoozing on the wheels. Why the leper-like treatment of the issue?

Thus the other challenge: revenue generation which so-called leadership must work to increase on a steady basis. Let's see new ideas up this alley from policymakers as a matter of fiduciary duty.

**Policy:** In its simplest form, policies are designed with the single purpose in mind: improve the quality of life of people in our community.

It's laws, rules and regulations the beneficiary of research work and rational debates. In brief, it has gone through the serious review process and approval.

On a more focused basis, what have policymakers done factually that improved the income of some 15-thousand employees now earning poverty income in wages and salaries? Have you put your best foot forward or "not yet, already?" Any plans when would you factually take this up?

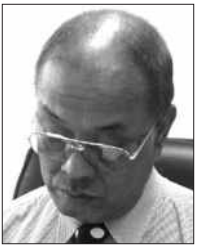
Understood the fear of making empty promises, but do you leave the issue to meander on its own? Isn't this when we hear your plans on a realistic basis or "not yet, already?"

**Salute:** I tip my hat off to the Board of Education for imposing cuts where necessary while ensuring quality of instructions.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



It's a matter of priority and the board deserves the accolades for fulfilling fiduciary duty responsibly.

Its decision should be emulated by all governmental agencies in light of the reduction in revenue. It made the right decision on a timely basis. Thus our educational system could move on with its constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

Conditions place urgency to look at scarce resources that must be dealt with some mature sense of responsibility. In brief, let's spend within our means to avoid incurring deficit spending.

**Example:** President Trump removed government from interfering with the lives of simple people. Folks produced more and prosperity was given a chance to flourish to everyone's benefit. It's an iconic example what leadership is all about.

Here at home, recent decision by the board of education to cut salaries is an example of a policy matter that had to be implemented. It decided on salary and other cuts while ensuring it didn't interfere with the delivery of instructions. Other agencies must follow suit in order to avoid deficit spending.

Unfortunately, when the need arises to increase budgetary allocations it often requires concurrent increase in taxes. I think it's the equivalence of advancing to the rear. Did you get that pal?

# Trump's India trip: Leaders of world's two most important democracies trash rule of law

**T**o understand the growing global threats to democracy, you only had to follow President Donald Trump's two-day visit to India this week.

Here was the leader of the world's most powerful democracy and the prime minister of its largest democracy, India's Narendra Modi, embracing each other at a massive campaign-style rally in a 110,000 seat cricket stadium. Trump lapped up Modi's flattery and basked in the spectacle of the rally in Ahmedabad, featuring dancers, singers, blaring music, cricket stars and Bollywood idols.

While this visit produced little substance, in better times it might have had huge symbolic significance. It could have advertised the virtues of the world's two most important democracies in contrast to the authoritarian model of China.

Instead, these two leaders displayed their disdain for rule of law and their embrace of a virulent strain of populist nationalism that is infecting democracies around the world.

The visit took place against a backdrop of Hindu-Muslim riots in Delhi, provoked by Hindu nationalist Modi's harsh discriminatory laws against Muslims. These laws could deprive millions of Muslims of their citizenship while fast-tracking the entry of non-Muslim migrants from neighboring countries.

Trump appeared blissfully ignorant of Modi's controversial history and attack on the liberal principles upon which India was founded. Or perhaps he knew but didn't care. (After all, India is home to the most Trump business ventures outside North America.)

He should have known that India was created as a secular state whose constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, language, race, ethnicity or gender. This was in sharp contrast to the founding of neighboring Pakistan, carved out of India after independence, which, to its enduring detriment, adopted a

theocratic model.

Yet Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party wants to adopt that religious-nationalist model and link citizenship to the Hindu religion.

Modi himself is a member of the radical paramilitary wing of his party, known as the RSS, which was inspired by European fascism in the 1930s. (An RSS member assassinated Mahatma Gandhi.) BJP officials encourage vigilante violence while attacking liberal journalists and using legions of media trolls to spread the message of Hindu supremacy.

In violation of India's constitution, Modi took over the autonomous, largely Muslim Indian state of Kashmir last year and shut down the internet for months, while keeping the entire population under police curfew.

Rule of law proved no barrier to Modi's military move.

And, in 1992, in the very city of Ahmedabad, where Trump embraced his rally, then-regional governor Modi was accused of promoting a massive pogrom that killed hundreds of Muslims. This massacre was so bloody that the United States refused Modi a visa for years.

I met up with this kind of Hindu fanaticism in 1998, when writing about the first Indian election in which the BJP won a national victory. In Mumbai, I interviewed Bal Thackeray, the leader of another fanatic Hindu movement called Shiv Sena, allied with Modi's BJP party. Guarded by goons who lined up for blocks outside his home, draped in crimson robes, Thackeray bragged of how he had orchestrated anti-Muslim riots in Mumbai in December 1992. He told me that, if a fictional movie version of the riots didn't meet his approval, he would shut any movie theater down that attempted showed it.

Such religious thuggery, now promoted by Modi, threatens to tear apart this vitally important, vibrant democracy and under-

**By TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*



mine its economic future. All across India, thousands of non-Muslims are protesting the new anti-Muslim laws.

Yet when asked by journalists about the religious violence in Delhi, and about the ugly new citizenship laws, Trump praised Modi's commitment to "religious freedom" and said, "I really believe that's what (Modi) wants." As for Kashmir, "there are two sides to every story but they've been working on that very hard."

Then the president went on to crazily misquote Modi as saying India went from 14 million Muslims "a short while ago" to 200 million now, as if Muslims had just flooded the country with caravans crossing the border. Yes, 200 million Indian citizens are indeed Muslim, but that is the number Modi is trying to dramatically shrink.

Then, displaying his real instincts, Trump segued into praise for his own travel ban, while falsely insisting it was "not a thing against Muslims."

Two populists on a roll, each extolling his ability to exclude one religious category of immigrants, a move that excites their base.

But the worst came last. While in India, Trump could not resist continuing his tirade against the American judicial system, lambasting liberal Supreme Court justices, as he has done to judges, jurors, and prosecutors when verdicts don't please him.

Two leaders praising each other, as each undermines rule of law in his own country. That was the image presented by the "leader of the free world" alongside the head of the world's largest democracy, and it should make us all very, very sad.

## CLICHÉ

From Page 14

once or twice more with bagged commercial dog food before filling the container with random trash and putting it inside a tied and sealed plastic garbage bag. Likewise we keep every shopping bag we acquire in a bin and reuse them for many different tasks around the house. We line small trash cans with them then all the little bags get tied up and put into the big garbage bag for pick up and disposal, we wrap fruit in them for ripening, we store small items in the smaller bags and label them with contents.

There are scores of uses. We tie them to our luggage to aid easy identification at the baggage carousel.

If you are really serious give some meaningful funding to CDA and task them with identifying a suitable plastic recycling business plan and to provide some seed money to get it off the ground. There are hundreds of reuse products now made from scrap plastic. Those petro carbon molecules are easily broken down and turned into something new and usable again.

Let's be smart about how we spend what few dollars we have instead of posing in front of a feel good bill that actually stops reuse and recycling efforts while it inconveniences everyone one the island. Dump the Styrofoam container and the so-called one

use plastic bill in their tracks. Vote no.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!






"A fine glass vase goes from treasure to trash, the moment it is broken. Fortunately some else happens to you and me. Pick up your pieces. Then help me gather mine." —*Vera Nazarian*

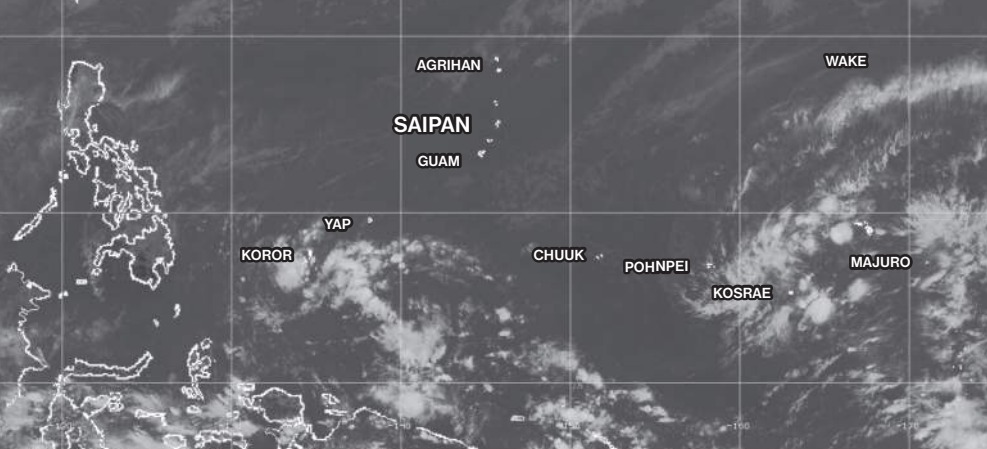
"Before it is too late, go out there and find someone who, in your opinion, believes, assumes, or considers certain things very strongly and very differently from you, and just have a basic honest conversation.

It will do both of you good." —*Vera Nazarian*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	76°	87°	75°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry trade-wind pattern has reestablished over the region. Only a few showers are evident on radar and these showers are fairly light. A patch of stratocumulus moved over the islands this morning and brought a temporary period of mostly cloudy skies. These clouds will dissipate a bit after sunrise and partly cloudy skies will prevail. A diffuse shear line, currently evident on satellite over the northern CNMI, will approach the islands over the weekend. This will bring increasing clouds and winds to the islands, as well as an increase in showers. Little rainfall is expected with the showers and coverage is expected to remain isolated. By the beginning of next week, a weak trough, likely the remnants of a weak circulation currently southeast of Kosrae, will approach the Marianas. This will maintain mostly cloudy conditions and bring an increase in moisture. Although little rain fall is expected with the trough, the interaction of the trough and shear line are the best chance at a wetting rain for the next week. A dry trade-wind pattern is then expected to return by the middle of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	83° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°	
Beijing	Showers	45° / 32°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 66°	
Honolulu	Windy	78° / 68°	
London	Showers	48° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 57°	
Manila	Sunny	91° / 73°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	69° / 52°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	41° / 29°	
Osaka	Showers	50° / 45°	
Paris	Rain	52° / 36°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°	
Rome	Sunny	64° / 41°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	57° / 36°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	65° / 49°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 32°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	47° / 29°	



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:25 AM	LOW TIDE	0.36	
10:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.63	
5:01 PM	LOW TIDE	0.47	
10:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.46	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:25 AM	10:00 PM	-
Saturday	10:02 AM	10:48 PM	-
Sunday	10:40 AM	11:37 PM	-
Monday	11:22 AM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:29 AM	12:08 PM

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# Multi-agency efforts in Guam continue to prepare for COVID-19

GUAM—Officials are aware of a viral message circulating on Whatsapp and social media claiming a case of the coronavirus is now on Guam. This message is false. Currently there are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 and no people who meet the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria for a Person Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Guam. Guam is carefully assessing and monitoring the situation as it evolves. With any change in status, anticipate timely notification.

## A united Guam prepares for global threat

The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, globally, nationally, and to our island. The Government of Guam (Gov-Guam) has been working on a daily basis with counterparts at the CDC and with local health care providers to prepare for the possibility that COVID-19 will come to our island.

“Everything we can do as a government to protect and prepare for COVID-19 is being done. We have faced similar challenges before, and we always came through stronger and more united. Each of our families can help in small ways, but know that we are facing a global problem and working with every local and federal partner to keep Guam safe,” said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

## Multi-agency efforts continue

Leon Guerrero met with Rear Adm. John Menoni, Commander, Joint Region Marianas (JRM), to further discuss Guam’s prevention and response planning efforts for COVID-19, adding to the already established integration of GovGuam and JRM agencies. “Joint Region Marianas will continue coordination with GovGuam to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 to protect our force and families, prevent the spread of the virus to U.S. territories and partner nations through our procedures, and maintain our ability to support the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s mission,” said Menoni.

As part of continued multi-agency response efforts, DPHSS is hosting a Guam Pandemic Plan Review working session on Wednesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 4pm at the Pacific Star Resort. The purpose of the meeting is to enhance Guam’s capabilities in response to COVID-19. Media will only be allowed to cover the opening session, before 9am on Wednesday, March 4. Due to the sensitivity of the topic and the planned discussions of the internal procedures of all agencies, this meeting will not be open to the media beyond 9am, Wednesday, March 4.

Take precautions now: Prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses

Everyone can do their part to help respond to this emerging public health threat:

- It’s currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Practice proper cough etiquette – cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.

- Stay home when you are sick – do not go to work or school.

## Guam Parks and Recreation director resigns

HAGATÑA, Guam—Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has accepted Department of Parks and Recreation director Richard Ybanez’s resignation.

Ybanez has cited health reasons for his resignation, which is effective close of business Feb. 27, 2020.



Ybanez

“I want to thank Rich for his service and I respect his decision to focus on his health. I wish him all the best,” said Leon Guerrero.

For inquiries, contact Janela Carrera, Director of Communications, at 472-8931 or janela.carrera@guam.gov. (PR)

## Stay up to date with reputable sources

It is important to note that the situation can change daily. The community is reminded to only share official notices and visit the

following links for the most up-to-date information:

- CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- DPHSS website: <http://dphss.guam.gov/2019-nov->

<https://www.guam.gov/2019-nov->

- GHS/OC website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/coronavirus>

- Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center: <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/program-and-policy-support/Pages/Novel-Coronavirus.aspx>

For more information, contact DPHSS Monday through Friday, 8am- 5pm, at (671) 735-7154. (PR)



**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT**

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**PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS  
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING  
DESIGN SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for replacement of eight (8) roll up doors at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) and/or [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: 2/21/2020



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS  
FOR  
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
ARFF RAPID REFILL IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-19**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for improvements to the water system for ARFF rapid refill at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) and/or [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than Friday, March 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: 2/19/2020



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



## NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of February 28, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Crystal Star Corporation	01/27/2020 SLRm-2020-X-032	Placement of Three (3) Mooring Buoys	Oleai, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 02/25/2020
2. CNMI Public School System, Athletic Department	02/06/2020 SSLRm-2020-X-035	PSS Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Races	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 02/13/2020
3. NAPA Auto & Truck Parts	02/12/2020 SW-2020-X-036	Backfill (Coral, Limestone, Boulders)	San Jose, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
4. Sea-Lago Inc.	02/13/2020 SPH-2020-X-037	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/25/2020
5. Week 8 (Saipan) Inc.	02/14/2020 SSW-2020-X-038	Land Clearing	Tanapag, Saipan	Shoreline, Wetland	Approved* 02/26/2020
6. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	02/20/2020 SPH-2020-X-039	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/25/2020
7. Micronesian Land Corporation dba Saipan Hopping Tour	02/21/2020 SPH-2020-X-040	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/25/2020
8. Christine Castro	02/26/2020 SSm-2020-X-041	Single Family Dwelling	San Antonio, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 02/26/2020
9. Mayor of Rota	01/21/2020 RSm-2020-X-0122	Sabana Freedom is Nature Trail & Overlook	Sabana, Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 02/25/2020

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
 Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
 P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950  
 Telephone: (670) 234-1615  
 Facsimile: (670) 234-5749  
 charity@chodsonlaw.com

*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH )  
 DEVELOPMENT )  
 AUTHORITY, )  
 )  
 ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
**Plaintiff,** ) **NO. 11-0004**  
**v.** )  
**ERIC B. ATALIG and** ) **NOTICE OF**  
**LOURDES F.** ) **AUCTION**  
**ATALIG,** )  
**)**  
**Defendants. )**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Tract No. 21769-R2-5** (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

**Tract No. 21769-R2-9** (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

**Tract No. 21769-R2-10** (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

The foregoing properties contain a total area of 2,618 square meters, more or less. This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 12, 2017**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:  
 1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.  
 2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.  
 3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/  
Charity R. Hodson, F0487

**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
 Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
 P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950  
 Telephone: (670) 234-1615  
 Facsimile: (670) 234-5749  
 charity@chodsonlaw.com

*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH )  
 DEVELOPMENT )  
 AUTHORITY, )  
 )  
 ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
**Plaintiff,** ) **NO. 12-0004**  
**v.** )  
**THE ESTATE OF HERMAN** ) **NOTICE OF**  
**T. PALACIOS and THE** ) **AUCTION**  
**ESTATE OF JOYCELYN** )  
**C. PALACIOS,** )  
**)**  
**Defendants. )**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Lot No. 001 I 13**, containing an area of 1,529 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001100, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 712, on the 1st day of March 1971, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 7, 2019**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.  
 2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.  
 3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
 Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
 P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950  
 Telephone: (670) 234-1615  
 Facsimile: (670) 234-5749  
 charity@chodsonlaw.com

*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH )  
 DEVELOPMENT )  
 AUTHORITY, )  
 )  
 ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
**Plaintiff,** ) **NO. 16-0236**  
**v.** )  
**AMBROSE BENNETT,** ) **NOTICE OF**  
**individually and dba )** **AUCTION**  
**LIL & BRO'S TRIKE** )  
**DEALERSHIP & RENTALS,** )  
**and JUAN T. LIZAMA,** )  
**)**  
**Defendants. )**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Lot No. 031 A 01**, containing an area of 1,186 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 A 00 dated 20 February 1985, as File No. 85-0423.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **July 23, 2018**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Ambrose Bennett, individual and dba Lil and Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Juan T. Lizama.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.  
 2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.  
 3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;  
 b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and  
 c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 02607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of Defendant Juan T. Lizama to the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Richard C. Miller, NMI Bar No. F0458  
 Miller Law Office, LLC  
 2nd Fl., Macararas Bldg., Garapan  
 PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950  
 Phone: 670 233-0990 | Fax: 670 233-5262  
 Email: millercnmlaw@protonmail.com  
 Attorney for Commonwealth Development Authority

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH )  
 DEVELOPMENT )  
 AUTHORITY, )  
 )  
 ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
**Plaintiff,** ) **NO. 12-0078**  
**v.** )  
**ESTATE OF** ) **NOTICE OF**  
**VICENTE C. CASTRO,** ) **AUCTION**  
**et al.,** )  
**)**  
**Defendants. )**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the remaining leasehold interest in the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

55-year leasehold interest, dated December 11, 1991, in:

**Part of E.A. 220**, situated in Taloforo area, Saipan, Mariana Islands, and further described as follows:

Beginning at a Corner 1 which is North 76-00-17 W, a distance of 1236.64 meters from a triangulation station "CAMP";

Thence S 02° 03' 37" E, 105.42 meters to Corner 2;  
 Thence S 82° 25' 44" E, 225.25 meters to Corner 3;  
 27Thence S 02° 05' 45" W, 79.30 meters to Corner 4;  
 Thence S 68° 36' 09" E, 15.85 meters to Corner 5;  
 Thence N 42° 34' 32" E, 347.07 meters to Corner 6;  
 Thence N 88° 31' 25" W, 604.33 meters to Corner 1;  
 the point of beginning.

Containing an area of 90,712.0 square meters, more or less, and being situated on land Square 6, Section 2, Units 1, m, and n, as shown in APWO Drawing No. 11406 on file and with the Clerk of Courts, Saipan District.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on April 19, 2016, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth

Development Authority from Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.

2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;  
 b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and  
 c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Miller Law Office, LLC, through mail with the address of PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to millercnmlaw@protonmail.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Miller Law Office, LLC  
by Richard C. Miller, Esq.

# Business

## Delta reduces flights to S. Korea as virus outbreak spreads

Delta Air Lines is reducing flights to South Korea while Hawaiian Airlines will suspend them entirely, as airlines deal with growing concern about the spread of the new virus beyond China.

Delta said Wednesday that it will suspend flights between Seoul and Minneapolis after Saturday and running through April 30. Delta also said it will reduce flights from Seoul to Atlanta, Detroit and Seattle to five times a week. The airline said last fall that it was operating about 28 flights per week on those routes.

The Atlanta-based airline, the world's largest by revenue, will also delay the start of new flights between Seoul's Incheon Airport and Manila. Instead of beginning March 29, the launch has been pushed back to May 1.

Hawaiian Airlines said it will suspend flights between Honolulu and Seoul starting next Monday and running through April 30. The carrier currently flies the route five times a week.

Hawaiian CEO Peter Ingram called the suspension prudent because of the rise in COVID-19 cases in South Korea and the effect the outbreak is having on demand for leisure travel by Koreans.

Delta, United Airlines and

American Airlines have already suspended all flights to and from mainland China and Hong Kong. United said this week that demand for service to China had disappeared, and that March bookings for flights elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region had plummeted 75% since the outbreak.

Fear about the virus is hitting cruise lines and other travel companies hard too. Booking Holdings Inc., the parent of travel search and booking sites including Kayak and Priceline, said the virus had "a significant and negative impact across our business" in the first quarter.

"It is not possible to predict where, and to what degree, outbreaks of the coronavirus will disrupt travel patterns," the company said.

The number of new cases of the COVID-19 virus reported Tuesday was greater outside China than inside China for the first time, according to the World Health Organization. South Korea has reported more than 1,200 cases and 11 deaths.

Several airlines in Asia and the Middle East have suspended flights to other Asian countries besides China. The list includes Korean Air, Japan Airlines and Philippine Airlines. Singapore Airlines, hurt by weak demand, has suspended flights to several destinations in the U.S. and Europe.

Shares in the U.S. airlines that fly to Asia have been hammered—they have been among the biggest losers during this week's stock market downturn.

The stocks — along with those of cruise companies — continued to fall Wednesday, even as the broader market stabilized after a two-day rout.

On Wednesday, shares of Delta Air Lines Inc. fell 2.6%. United Airlines Holdings Inc. plunged 5.7%, Hawaiian Airlines parent Hawaiian Holdings lost 3.8%, and American Airlines Group Inc. dropped 3.5%—hitting its lowest level since late 2013, when the airline's predecessor parent company was under bankruptcy protection.

The four biggest losers in the Standard & Poor's 500 index on Wednesday were Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd., Carnival Corp., and online travel agency Expedia Group Inc. Royal Caribbean dropped more than 8%; the others fell more than 7%. (AP)

Melinda Rogolifoi  
 P.O. Box 501533  
 Saipan, MP 96950  
 287-2013

pro se

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter )  
 Of The Petition To )  
 Appoint General ) FCD GU  
 Guardianship For: ) CIVIL ACTION  
 Tristan Rogolifoi ) NO. 20-0045  
 Minor Child ) **NOTICE OF**  
 By: ) **HEARING**  
 Melinda Rogolifoi )  
 Petitioners )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 23, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court  
 /s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



# Nation

## Gunman kills 5 at Milwaukee brewery before taking own life

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—An employee opened fire Wednesday at one of the nation's largest breweries in Milwaukee, killing five fellow workers before taking his own life, police said.

The assailant who attacked the Molson Coors complex was identified as a 51-year-old Milwaukee man who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

"There were five individuals who went to work today, just like everybody goes to work, and they thought they were going to go to work, finish their day and return to their families. They didn't—and tragically they never will," Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said.

Authorities offered no immediate motive for the attack and did not release details about the shooter or how the shooting unfolded.

None of the victims was identified. Police said they were still contacting relatives as of early evening. No one was wounded beyond those

who were killed, authorities said.

Officers were working to clear the more than 20 buildings in the complex where more than 1,000 people work. Police Chief Alfonso Morales said authorities believe the shooter operated alone and that the threat was over.

President Donald Trump addressed the shooting before speaking at the White House about steps his administration is taking to combat the coronavirus.

"Our hearts break for them and their loved ones," the president said. "We send our condolences. We'll be with them, and it's a terrible thing, a terrible thing."

The attack occurred at a sprawling complex that includes a mix of corporate offices and brewing facilities. The complex is widely known in the Milwaukee area as "Miller Valley," a reference to the Miller Brewing Co. that is now part of Molson Coors.

Molson Coors CEO Gavin Hattersley called the shooter "an

active brewery employee."

"Unfortunately, I am devastated to share that we lost five other members of our family in this tragic incident," he said in an email sent to employees. "There are no words to express the deep sadness many of us are feeling right now."

He said the office would be closed the rest of the week and the brewery shuttered "for the time being" to give people time to cope.

A group of brewery employees gathered at a nearby bar to talk about what had happened.

"We are all a family. We work a lot of hours together, so we're all very sad," said Selena Curka, a brewery employee who was about to start her shift when the complex went on lockdown and she was turned away.

"It's just weird, because nine times out of 10 you're going to know the shooter," said another employee Thomas Milner. "It's a tight-knit family. Within the brewery we all interact with each other."



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
 Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
 Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### INVITATION FOR BID AMENDED PROJECT NO. IFB-004-20

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

### PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT POLICE PATROL BOAT WITH TRAILER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer, destination Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning January 10, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building on January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., to discuss and ask questions regarding this procurement process. All interested bidders are asked to attend.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at [cpa.receptionist@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.receptionist@pticom.com) with copy to [itdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:itdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp) prior to **February 19th, 2020**.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer/IFB-004-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, February 28, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced at the CPA Seaport Conference Room. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-010

#### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

*CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".*

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org), Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email [joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org](mailto:joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org) and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email [alfred.palattao@cucgov.org](mailto:alfred.palattao@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
 Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
 Purchasing Administrator



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-012

#### SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
 Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
 Purchasing Administrator



# Asia

## Duterte says Philippines can survive without America

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday said Filipino forces can fight insurgents and Muslim extremists without American military help, in a defense of his recent decision to terminate a U.S. security pact.

Duterte also said in a speech that he would stick

to a decision made early in his presidency, when he was enraged by then President Barack Obama's criticism of his deadly anti-drug crackdown, that he will not travel to the United States.

The brash Philippine leader has often criticized U.S. security policies while praising China and Russia since taking

office in mid-2016 for a six-year term.

U.S. President Donald Trump invited Duterte to join a meeting he will host for leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Las Vegas next month. Duterte has better relations with Trump than with Obama, but his remarks Wednesday sup-

port an earlier statement by his spokesman that he would not attend the Las Vegas meeting.

"Do we need America to survive as a nation?" Duterte asked. "Do we need ... the might and power of the military of the United States to fight our rebellion here and the terrorists down south and control drugs?"

"The military and police said, 'Sir, we can do it,'" he said.

"If we can't do it, we have no business being a republic," Duterte said. "You might as well choose. We can be a territory of the Americans or we can be a province of China."

The Philippine government notified the U.S. two weeks ago that it intends to end the Visiting Forces Agreement, which allows American forces to train in large numbers in the Philippines, in the most serious threat under Duterte to the two nations' 69-year treaty alliance.

The termination takes effect after 180 days unless both sides agree to keep the VFA. The waiting period allows the allies to renegotiate contentious terms of the 1998 agreement.

The accord allows the entry and temporary stay of American forces along with U.S. military ships and aircraft for joint training with Filipino

troops. The maneuvers include annual drills that Philippine security officials have credited with helping beat back communist insurgents nationwide and Islamic State group-aligned Muslim militants in the southern Philippines.

The VFA specifies which country has jurisdiction over American soldiers who are accused of crimes while in the Philippines, a sensitive issue in the former American colony.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has called the decision by the Duterte administration "unfortunate." Trump, however, reacted dismissively, saying, "If they would like to do that, that's fine. We'll save a lot of money."

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., who signed the notice of termination at Duterte's direction, has proposed a review of the agreement to fix contentious issues instead of abrogating it.



AP

In this Feb. 25, 2020 handout photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, center, salutes during the Presidential Security Group Change of Command ceremony at the PSG Compound in Malacañang Park, Manila, Philippines.

## Hardest-hit China, S. Korea count 767 new virus cases

**BEIJING (AP)**—South Korea and China each reported hundreds more virus cases Thursday as the new illness persists in the worst-hit areas and spreads beyond borders.

South Korea reported 334 more cases, bringing its total to 1,595. Most of the new cases were in the country's fourth-biggest city, Daegu, where the outbreak has hit hardest and the national government has mobilized public health tools to assist the region's overwhelmed medical system.

But there are signs the virus is spreading further in South Korea with 55 cases reported so far in the capital, Seoul, and 58 in the second-largest city, Busan. The country also confirmed its 13th death Thursday, with most still in and near Daegu.

China reported 433 new cases along with 29 additional deaths. Thursday's updates bring mainland China's totals to 78,497 cases, and 2,744 deaths.

Of the new cases, 383 were in the epicenter of the city of Wuhan, where the virus first emerged in December. Wuhan also accounted for 19 of the new deaths.

Global worries about the COVID-19 illness were multiplying, as the epidemic expanded geographically and for the first time caused more new cases outside China than inside the country. With Brazil on Wednesday confirming Latin America's first case, the virus has reached every continent but Antarctica.

"The sudden increases of cases in Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Korea are deeply concerning," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

South Korea followed China in expressing dismay at travel restrictions imposed by other countries.

About 40 nations and regions so far have prohibited or restricted South Korean

visitors, according to Lee Lee Tae-ho, Seoul's second vice minister of foreign affairs, who described such moves as excessive and said his government has been effectively utilizing its "world-best quarantine capabilities."

But calls have grown inside South Korea for expanding its own entry ban, which currently covers only visitors from China's Hubei province, where Wuhan is the capital.

China has put Wuhan and nearby cities on lockdown, many airlines have reduced Chinese flights, and many places have increased monitoring of arrivals from China, all resulting in far few Chinese arrivals around the globe. Lee said the inflow of Chinese into South Korea has been reduced by more than 80%.

In Europe, an expanding cluster of more than 440 cases in northern Italy was eyed as a source for transmissions. In the Middle East, blame was directed at Iran, which had 19

deaths, the highest toll outside China. Saudi Arabia said early Thursday it would ban tourists from places with confirmed outbreaks, including pilgrims coming for the Umrah or to visit the Prophet's Mosque in Medina.

And in the United States, which has 60 cases, President Donald Trump declared that the U.S. was "very, very ready" for whatever threat the coronavirus brings, and he put Vice President Mike Pence in charge of overseeing the country's response.

Shortly after Trump spoke, health officials identified what could be the first community spread U.S. case. The patient in California was not known to have traveled to a country with an outbreak or had ties to a known patient. Most of the previously confirmed U.S. cases had traveled to China, were evacuated from the virus-stricken Diamond Princess cruise ship, or were family members of those cases.

## US, South Korea militaries face new enemy in viral outbreak

**SEOUL, South Korea**

(AP)—The U.S. and South Korean militaries, used to being on guard for threats from North Korea, face a new and formidable enemy that could hurt battle readiness: a virus spreading around the world that has infected more than 1,200 people in South Korea.

As the new coronavirus, which was first found in China, has begun to sweep through South Korea, soldiers stationed in close quarters on bases throughout the country are at particular risk. Already 20 South Korean soldiers and one American have tested positive.

In response the allies are taking aggressive measures to guard against a viral outbreak and are even considering curtailing a key joint military exercise, something experts say is inevitable because if the virus were to spread through the ranks it could significantly weaken their ability to fight if necessary.

"In the military, soldiers are living as a group. So even if just one person contracts the virus at his base, its aftermath would be really tremendous," said Kim Dae-young, an analyst at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. "This year, no military training can

be the best option."

The virus has infected more than 80,000 people worldwide, mostly in China, though over the past week South Korea has become the second-worst affected country after an outbreak centered in the southeast around its fourth-largest city, Daegu.

South Korea boasts a 600,000-strong military, while the U.S. stations 28,500 troops in the country largely as a deterrent to possible North Korean aggression. Daegu, with a population of about 2.5 million people, is near four American bases.

The United States Forces Korea on Monday said that a USFK widowed dependent tested positive for the virus. On Wednesday the U.S. reported that a 23-year-old soldier had tested positive and would be treated at Camp Humphreys near Seoul. It said the soldier was originally based at Camp Carroll near Daegu.

South Korea has suspended some unilateral field training, placed 9,570 troops under quarantine and banned most of its enlisted soldiers from leaving their bases. The U.S. military is also urging its personnel to avoid handshakes and large gatherings if possible.



# World

## New coronavirus reaches Latin America, first case in Brazil

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)**—Latin America saw its first confirmed case of the new coronavirus spreading worldwide when Brazil's government announced that a 61-year-old man who traveled to Italy this month had the virus.

The Brazilian man had spent two weeks in northern Italy's Lombardy region on a work trip, where he contracted the contagious virus, the Health Ministry said Wednesday.

"Our healthcare system has already undergone grave respiratory epidemics before," Brazil's Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta said in a press conference. "We will get through this situation, investing in science, research and clear information."

Since the COVID-19 virus began to spread throughout the world from China, Brazil and other countries in the region have registered dozens of suspected cases, all of which previously had been discarded following tests.

According to Brazil's Health Ministry, the man began to show symptoms compatible with the illness, such as a dry cough, throat pain and flu symptoms. Lombardy is the epicenter of the outbreak in Italy, and there have been hundreds of confirmed cases there as well as several deaths.

Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein Institute, where the man received medical attention, carried out respiratory tests, and the Adolfo Lutz Institute in



Airport employees wear masks as a precaution against the spread of the new coronavirus COVID-19 as they work at the Sao Paulo International Airport in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

the same city carried out the subsequent test confirming the virus. The man was in stable condition and in isolation at home in Sao Paulo.

Brazil's national health agency Anvisa has been working to map all contact the man had with others, and on Tuesday requested the manifest of the flight he took to investigate other possible cases.

The Health Ministry said

that the man received some 30 family members at his home after returning to Sao Paulo on Feb. 21. Those people are under observation, as are with passengers from the plane.

"We will now see how this virus behaves in a tropical country in the middle of summer, how its behavior pattern will be," Mandetta said.

Residents of the biggest city in Latin America were begin-

ning to acknowledging the risks of an epidemic. Thiago Alves, the manager of drugstore in central Sao Paulo, said he had sold more than 3,000 masks on Wednesday.

"We are already short and it isn't even the beginning of the afternoon," he said.

Sao Paulo's stock exchange, which had been closed since Friday due to the Carnival

holiday, was down 5% shortly after 2 p.m., which economist André Perfeito attributed to "the global outbreak of coronavirus, not necessarily its arrival here." Global stock markets had dipped sharply while the Brazilian exchange was closed.

Four years ago, Latin America's largest country found itself under the microscope as the spreading Zika virus was linked

to cases of microcephaly in babies just ahead of the summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil's response was deemed adequate by international organizations and its public health care system handled most cases, though medicine was in short supply in many isolated areas of the Northeast region. Some foreign sports fans and competitors still canceled their plans to attend South America's first Olympics.

As of Wednesday, there were 20 suspected cases of the new coronavirus in Brazil, 12 of which in people who returned from Italy. Authorities have so far ruled out 59 cases that were suspected since the outbreak began.

Due to the spread of the new virus worldwide, Brazil on Monday broadened its criteria for analysis of suspected cases. The Health Ministry determined that people with fever and flu symptoms returning from Italy and six other countries should be considered suspected cases. Those countries are Germany, France, Australia, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Philippines.

The news of the virus reaching Brazilian soil comes as the nation emerges from its annual Carnival revelry. Amanda Pereira, who joined a street party on Wednesday with her young daughter, said, "I worry a lot because my daughters have breathing problems, so we will stay alert."

### Saudi Arabia halts travel to Islam's holiest site over virus

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Saudi Arabia on Thursday halted travel to the holiest sites in Islam over fears about a new viral epidemic just months ahead of the annual hajj pilgrimage, a move coming as the Middle East has over 220 confirmed cases of the illness.

The extraordinary decision by Saudi Arabia stops foreigners from reaching the holy city of Mecca and the Kaaba, the cube-shaped structure the world's 1.8 billion Muslims pray toward five times a day. It also said travel was suspended to Prophet Muhammad's mosque in Medina.

The decision showed the worry about the outbreak potentially spreading into Saudi Arabia, whose oil-rich monarchy stakes its legitimacy on protecting Islam's holy sites. The epicenter in the Middle East's most-affected country, Iran, appears to be in the holy Shiite city of Qom, where a

shrine there sees the faithful reach out to kiss and touch it in reverence.

"Saudi Arabia renews its support for all international measures to limit the spread of this virus, and urges its citizens to exercise caution before traveling to countries experiencing coronavirus outbreaks," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement announcing the decision. "We ask God Almighty to spare all humanity from all harm."

Disease outbreaks always have been a concern surrounding the hajj, required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life, especially as pilgrims come from all over the world. The earliest recorded outbreak came in 632 as pilgrims fought off malaria. A cholera outbreak in 1821 for instance killed an estimated 20,000 pilgrims. Another cholera outbreak in 1865 killed 15,000 pilgrims and then spread worldwide.

More recently, Saudi Arabia faced a danger from a related coronavirus that caused Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS. The kingdom increased its public health measures in 2012 and 2013, though no outbreak occurred.

While millions attend the 10-day hajj, this year set for late July into early August, millions more come during the rest of the year to the holy sites in the kingdom.

"It is unprecedented, at least in recent times, but given the worldwide spread of the virus and the global nature of the umrah, it makes sense from a public health and safety point of view," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. "Especially since the Iranian example illustrates how a religious crossroads can so quickly amplify the spread and reach of the virus."

### World powers: 'serious concerns' about Iran's atom program

**VIENNA (AP)**—The world powers that remain party to the nuclear deal with Iran expressed "serious concerns" Wednesday about Tehran's violations of the pact, while acknowledging that time was running out to find a way to salvage it.

Wang Qun, Chinese ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, told reporters after talks in Vienna between the parties to the deal, including Iran, that they are "racing against time to work out a specific solution so as to safeguard" the landmark 2015 agreement.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is known, promises Iran economic incentives in return for curbs on its nuclear program, with the goal of preventing Iran from developing a bomb—something the country's leaders insist they do not want to do.

Since President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. unilaterally out of the deal in 2018 and reimpose

American sanctions, Iran's economy has been struggling. Tehran has gradually been violating the deal's restrictions to pressure the remaining parties to the agreement—China, Russia, Germany, France and Britain—to provide new incentives to offset the American sanctions.

In response, the Europeans in January invoked a dispute resolution mechanism, designed to resolve issues with the deal or refer them to the U.N. Security Council.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters that Iran still remains "open to any initiative which can ensure Iran's dividends of the JCPOA."

"We are fully prepared to reverse the steps we have taken so far in return for the fulfillment of the other side's commitments in the JCPOA," he said.

In a statement following the meeting, the EU's top official for foreign affairs, Josep Borrell, said "serious concerns were expressed re-

garding the implementation of Iran's nuclear commitments under the agreement."

Borrell who chairs the joint commission of the JCPOA, was represented at the meeting by EU official Helga Schmid.

He said that "participants also acknowledged that the reimposition of U.S. sanctions did not allow Iran to reap the full benefits arising from sanctions-lifting."

He also said that "all participants reaffirmed the importance of preserving the agreement recalling that it is a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture."

Britain, France and Germany have developed a system known as INSTEX designed to facilitate trade with Iran while protecting companies from sanctions, but so far it has found little success.

Borrell said that everyone at the meeting acknowledged the importance of further strengthening INSTEX, and Iran seemed somewhat optimistic after the talks.



# Off The Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

**Man drives Jeep off 6-story roof of Los Angeles-area garage**  
**SANTA MONICA, Calif.** (AP)—A man drove his Jeep off the the sixth floor of a Los Angeles-area parking garage early Sunday and was taken to a hospital in critical condition, authorities said. When officers arrived shortly after midnight, they found the destroyed vehicle up against a McDonald's restaurant across the street from the garage in Santa Monica, police said. They said the 20-year-old driver, who was not immediately identified, was conscious and speaking with officers when they arrived. Firefighters extricated him from the wreckage and took him to a local trauma center, where he was listed in critical condition, the Santa Monica Fire Department said. Two passengers inside the Jeep were able to jump out before it went off the roof, the Los Angeles Times reported. Police in the coastal city were investigating the cause. Because the man was receiving medical treatment, investigators weren't yet able to determine whether drugs or alcohol were a factor, the newspaper said.

**Bear that wandered yards near Los Angeles moved to forest**  
**MONROVIA, Calif.** (AP)—A big, old bear wandered a Los Angeles foothill suburb Friday, drawing curious onlookers and news media before wildlife authorities removed it. The bear sluggishly ambled along streets and into backyards in Monrovia, which sits on the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Monrovia Police Department said officers kept watch and called state Department of Fish and Wildlife workers to the neighborhood. The bear was eventually tranquilized and taken to the nearest suitable forest habitat, said Tim Daly, a Fish and Wildlife spokesman. "One of our guys out on the scene described the bear as huge—about 400 pounds (181 kilograms)—female and older," Daly said. "In the bear world, she would be described as elderly." The bear was otherwise fine, he said. "It's a little alarming how close and comfortable people were getting up next to this bear, but there were no incidents, so we're happy about that," he added. It was believed

to be the same bear seen a day earlier in Monrovia, where it's not uncommon for animals to wander out of the sprawling Angeles National Forest above the city.

**Security video captures jail inmate's fall through ceiling**  
**DAYTON, Ohio** (AP)—A security camera captured footage of a jail inmate's apparent escape attempt from a holding room that ended with her falling through a ceiling and landing head-first in a trash can. Jessica Boomershire, 42, was charged with escape and vandalism following the episode late last month, according to the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office in Ohio. Her attorney, Kyle Lennen, declined to comment Friday. Jail security video shows Boomershire climbing up a holding room wall Jan. 21 as other inmates watch, and then moving out of sight. A few seconds later, parts of ceiling tiles fall to the floor. Boomershire's legs then appear, and guards pull her down. She ends up head-first in a trash can that then tips over. Boomershire was in jail on charges of kidnapping and robbing an 85-year-old Dayton-area man last month, records show. She and a co-defendant broke into the man's home after meeting him at a casino, according to prosecutor Mat Heck.

**Woman accused of calling 911 after parents cut off cellphone**  
**CANTON, Ohio** (AP)—An Ohio woman was arrested for calling 911 when her parents cut off her cellphone service, authorities said. Seloni Khetarpal was arrested Feb. 13 by Massillon police and charged with disrupting police services, a fourth-degree felony, The Canton Repository reported. Jail records show that Khetarpal, 36, repeatedly called emergency dispatchers because her parents had terminated her cellphone service, which they paid for. An officer contacted her and advised she call emergency services only for emergencies. Two hours later, she called again and "was belligerent and stated she believed it to be a legitimate issue," according to jail records. Court records do not list an attorney who could speak on Khetarpal's behalf.

**Man leaps from ambulance, is killed on California highway**  
**ENCINITAS, Calif.** (AP)—A 23-year-old man jumped out of the back of a moving ambulance and was struck by a car and killed on an interstate near San Diego, authorities said. The man, who may have been suffering from mental health issues, slipped out of restraints Saturday and pushed past the attendant to open the ambulance's rear door, California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Latulippe said. The patient landed in southbound lanes of Interstate 5 in Encinitas and managed to jump the center divider. As the man sprinted across northbound lanes he was struck by a BMW, Latulippe said. He died at the scene. The BMW driver, a 40-year-old Carlsbad woman, called 911 to report hitting a pedestrian. She was taken to a hospital in unknown condition and her car was towed, the newspaper said. The patient was being transferred by private ambulance from Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside to the Veterans Administration hospital in La Jolla, the Union-Tribune reported.

**'Leaning Tower of Dallas' endures blows from wrecking ball**  
**DALLAS** (AP)—The "Leaning Tower of Dallas," a social media sensation born when a part of a building survived implosion, endured hundreds of blows from a wrecking ball Monday. Dozens of people gathered northeast of the Texas city's downtown to watch as a crane was used to batter the former Affiliated Computer Services building. But the developer now says the demolition may take days. The 11-story building found a second life online after surviving a first demolition attempt. It inspired jokes and comparisons to Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa when a Feb. 16 implosion failed to bring down its core. The company that engineered the blast said some explosives did not go off. In the following week, people flocked to the site to post photos of themselves pretending to prop up the lopsided tower. The remainder of the building proved resilient Monday, and some onlookers were nonplussed by the ball that began swinging around 9 a.m.

# Science & Technology

## Managing remote workers? It takes more than the latest apps

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Nicolas Vandenberghe's company has 42 staffers scattered among 36 cities in 15 countries. As technology makes it possible for people to be in constant touch while working remotely, businesses like Chili Piper are becoming the norm.

"We have Zoom, Slack, and a myriad of other collaborative tools—do we really need the in-person water cooler meetings?" asks Vandenberghe, whose business makes software to help companies manage meetings. Vandenberghe himself is continually remote, splitting his time between Brooklyn, New York; Los Angeles and France.

Whether it means a parent working from home while caring for a sick child, a staffer who logs into a company computer daily from a coffee shop or an entire law firm that operates online, remote working is gaining momentum at small businesses. Technology that makes communication and meetings easy is a big factor in the growth of remote working, but so is the shrinking labor pool that accompanies an unemployment rate below 4% for over a year. Many companies no longer look for help close to their home base.

It's hard to find definitive statistics on how many people work remotely. Gallup's most recent survey in 2016 showed that 43% of employees worked remotely in at least some capacity; that was up 4 percentage points from 2012.

But even as remote working grows, business owners find managing offsite staffers involves more than giving them the latest technology. Communication, for example, can't be left solely to videoconferencing and messaging apps like Slack. Three of Jazmine Valencia's seven staffers are in her Los Angeles office, three are in New York and one is in Chicago. Her company, JV Agency, does marketing for the music industry. Valencia's remote staffers can feel left out when the onsite team discusses issues.

"I have to over-communicate and make sure everyone is on the same page. This might mean more one-on-ones, more calls and sometimes just being constantly emailing or private messag-



In this Feb. 20, 2020, photo Salli Gosula, executive director of SYNERGY HomeCare of San Mateo, poses for a photo at her office in San Mateo, Calif. Gosula has a remote administrative staffer and several onsite employees at her Synergy HomeCare franchise.

ing the remote team," Valencia says. "I need to give them a sense of security."

Owners say a remote operation can't work without trust between a boss and staffers, especially because it can be difficult for an owner to know what an employee is doing during a workday. Tyler Forte recalls that when he first managed staffers remotely, "it was me checking on them probably too frequently." He worried about staffers at his real estate brokerage spending time on social media.

But, "over time, you develop trust with the employee, that we're all working toward the same goal," says Forte, CEO of Felix Homes, based in Nashville, Tennessee. The company has staffers in Los Angeles. "Even if I'm not overseeing every move, I believe they are doing their best to advance the goals of the company."

Forte has found project management software, an aid many owners use, helps him keep track of what everyone is doing.

Sometimes the problem is very different from staffers goofing off.

"People have this idea that if you have a remote team, they won't work," says Emma Rose Cohen, CEO of Final Straw, a maker of reusable straws that has a hub in Seattle. "It's the opposite—if you hire the right people, they're self-starters, and self-starters are often people who work too much."

She's alert to signs that any of her 15 staffers are spending too much time on the job, and when they tell her they feel burned out, tired, or stressed, Cohen says it's time to take a

break. And she's very public about the fact she blocks off time for non-work things she needs to do.

One reason why employees take remote jobs is their bosses give them flextime; they can make their own hours, take time off for children's activities or to go to the gym or walk the dog. That perk can help a small business attract and retain staffers.

But remote work is a bad fit for some employees because it often is isolating; staffers can feel disconnected and even alienated from co-workers. That can be countered to some extent through messaging channels that allow everyone to chime in on a fun discussion. Cohen has gone further, creating channels devoted to specific topics like pets or podcasts.

When Andrew DeBell hires remote staffers, he flies them to his company's home base for interviews; that's one way to increase the odds they'll work well with the team at Water Bear Learning, a Ventura, California-based company that creates educational materials.

Some owners find remote work can have a stifling effect on a team's creativity—there's no light-bulb moments as staffers pass each other in the hallway, no riffing in a meeting, no break room chats that are unexpectedly productive.

"You're able to feed off each other and brainstorm ideas better in person than when you've got several people on the phone," DeBell says. His company has one staffer in Denver and two in Ventura. It also has a network of freelancers in the eastern U.S.



In Celebration of Her New Life

Suzanne Wilson Lizama

Lovingly known as "Sooze"

Born to life: November 02, 1957 | Called to Eternal Life: February 23, 2020

In her Eternal Life, she now joins:

**Father:** John Wilson Sr.  
**Mother:** Helen Wilson  
**Father-in-Law:** Jose M. Lizama  
Frederico Dela Cruz  
**Mother-in-Law:** Rita C. Lizama  
Maria L. Kaipat  
**Daughter:** Janine W. Lizama

**Her spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of:**  
**Husband:** Vicente (Ben) C. Lizama

**Children (Grandchildren):** **Robin L.** & Augustin Palacios  
(Tyler Augustin/ Jessa, Damian Augustin, Sky Gusteen)  
**Katherine L.** & Phillip Eusebio  
(Kane Phillip, Ponce Phillip, Vince Phillip, Lexi Eva Ka'Rine)

**Step-mother:** Shirley A. Wilson

**Reared Son:** Raymond Santos & Celina Biado

**Siblings:** †John Wilson Jr.  
†Gregory Wilson  
Elizabeth/Cesar Pastor & Family  
Anthony/Jeanette Wilson & Family  
†James Wilson  
Loran/Susan Wilson & Family

**In-laws:** Marina Kaipat & Family  
Carmen Suda & Family  
Susana Suda & Family  
†Manuel B. Lizama & Family  
†Jesus C./Maria Lizama & Family  
†Benedicto C. Lizama & Family  
†Ramon/Jean Lizama & Family  
Pedro C. Lizama  
Merced L./Juan Aguon & Family  
†Carmen L./ Jose Torres & Family  
Ignacia L./Hideo Osada & Family  
Theresita L./Jose Tyquiengco & Family  
†Joaquin C./Monica Lizama & Family  
†Trinidad Cepeda & Family  
Dionicio Camacho & Family

**Best Friend:** Keli A. Tenorio

Our beloved Suzanne is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, relatives, and friends.

She will also be remembered by her CNMI Public School System family and the Pacific Special Education and Early Intervention family.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Her remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to San Antonio Parish at 8:00am. Responso service will take place upon arrival of her remains followed by recitation of Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am.

Following the Mass her remains will be brought back to Borjas Funeral Home for cremation.

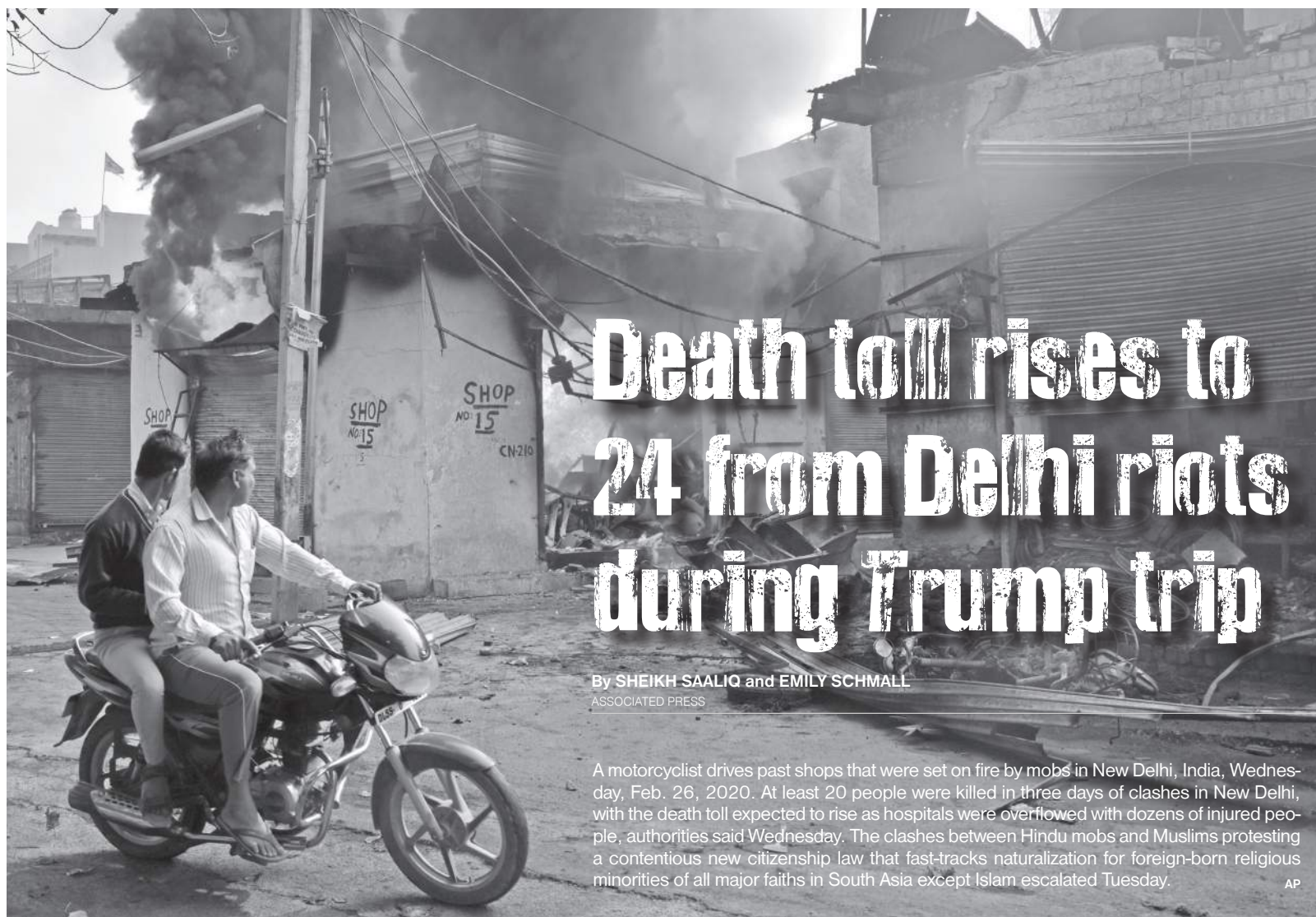
♥ **Thank you, Ghilissow, Mesulang, Yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase'**

*Vicente (Ben) Lizama, Robin, Katherine, and Grandchildren*





# Focus



## Death toll rises to 24 from Delhi riots during Trump trip

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and EMILY SCHMALL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A motorcyclist drives past shops that were set on fire by mobs in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. At least 20 people were killed in three days of clashes in New Delhi, with the death toll expected to rise as hospitals were overflowed with dozens of injured people, authorities said Wednesday. The clashes between Hindu mobs and Muslims protesting a contentious new citizenship law that fast-tracks naturalization for foreign-born religious minorities of all major faiths in South Asia except Islam escalated Tuesday.

Close by, black smoke still rose on Wednesday afternoon from a market that sold tires and second-hand car parts in Gokalpuri as fireman tried to douse the smoldering fire.

The violence drew sharp reactions from U.S. lawmakers, with Rep. Rashida Talib, a Democrat from Michigan, tweeting, "This week, Trump visited India but the real story should be the communal violence targeting Muslims in Delhi right now."

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the killing of Muslims, saying: "Now 200 million Muslims in India are being targeted. The world community must act now."

Trump told reporters Tuesday that he had heard about the violence but had not discussed it with Modi. Instead, Trump gloated about his reception in India.

India has been rocked by violence since Parliament approved the citizenship law in December. Opponents have said the country is moving toward a religious citizenship test, but Trump declined to comment on it.

"I don't want to discuss that. I want to leave that to India and hopefully they're going to make the right decision for the people," he said.

It was the worst religiously motivated violence in New Delhi since 1984, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was killed by her Sikh bodyguards, triggering a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than 3,000 Sikhs in the capital and more than 8,000 nationwide.

In 1992, tens of thousands of Hindu extremists razed a 16th-century mosque in northern India, claiming that it stood on the birthplace of the Hindu god Rama. Nearly 2,000 people were killed across the country in the riots that followed.

The religious polarization that followed saw the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party emerge as the single largest party in India's Parliament. The Congress party and regional parties courted Muslim votes by portraying themselves as defenders of minority rights.

In 2002, the western Indian state of Gujarat erupted in violence when a train filled with Hindu pilgrims was attacked by a Muslim mob in a small town. A fire erupted—it remains unclear whether it was arson—and 60 Hindus burned to death. In retaliation, more than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed in the state.

Modi was Gujarat's chief minister at the time. He was accused of tacit support for the rampage against Muslims, but a court ultimately cleared him of wrongdoing. Still, for several years the U.S. included him on a travel ban. Hosting Trump in Gujarat was important symbolically for Modi.

Violent large-scale clashes between Hindus and Muslims last took place in New Delhi in 2014, months after Modi's party came to power, in a largely poor neighborhood close to where this week's rioting occurred.

A Muslim-owned shop was set on fire, Hindus pelted a mosque with stones, and dozens of angry Muslim men attacked Hindu homes. About three dozen people were injured.

At least 24 people were killed and 189 injured in three days of clashes in New Delhi that coincided with U.S. President Donald Trump's first state visit to India, with the death toll expected to rise as hospitals continue to take in the wounded, authorities said Wednesday.

Shops, Muslim shrines and public vehicles were left smoldering from violence between Hindu mobs and Muslims protesting a new citizenship law that fast-tracks naturalization for foreign-born religious minorities of all major faiths in South Asia except Islam.

Twenty-four deaths were reported at two hospitals in New Delhi, officials said.

The clashes were the worst communal riots in the Indian capital in decades. The law's passage in December earlier spurred massive protests across India that left 23 dead, many of them killed by police.

The dead in this week's violence included a policeman and an intelligence bureau officer, and the government has banned public assembly in the affected areas.

Police spokesman M.S. Randhawa said 106 people were arrested for alleged involvement in the rioting.

Officials reported no new violence Wednesday as large police reinforcements patrolled the areas, where an uneasy calm prevailed.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval toured the northeastern neighborhoods of Delhi where the rioting occurred, seeking to assure fear-stricken residents including a female student who complained that police had not protected them from mobs

who vandalized the area and set shops and vehicles on fire.

While clashes wracked parts of the capital, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a lavish reception for Trump, including a rally in his home state of Gujarat attended by more than 100,000 people and the signing of an agreement to purchase more than \$3 billion of American military hardware.

On Wednesday, Modi broke his silence on the violence, tweeting that "peace and harmony are central to (India's) ethos. I appeal to my sisters and brothers of Delhi to maintain peace and brotherhood at all times."

New Delhi's top elected official, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, called for Modi's home minister, Amit Shah, to send the army to ensure peace.

Police characterized the situation as tense but under control. Schools remained closed.

Sonia Gandhi, a leader of the Congress party, India's main opposition group, called for Shah to resign. She accused Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party of creating an environment of hatred and its leaders of inciting violence with provocative speeches that sought to paint Muslim protesters against the citizenship law as anti-nationalists funded by Pakistan.

New Delhi's High Court ordered the police to review videos of hate speeches allegedly made by three leaders of Modi's party and decide whether to prosecute them, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The clashes escalated Tuesday, according to Rouf Khan, a resident of Mustafabad, an area in the capital's northeast.

Khan said mobs with iron rods, bricks and bamboo sticks attacked

### Hindu-Muslim clashes leave dozens dead, hundreds injured



Source: BBC  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

the homes of Muslims while chanting "Jai Shri Ram," or "Victory to Lord Ram," the popular Hindu god of the religious epic "Ramayana."

As Air Force One flew Trump and his delegation out of New Delhi late Tuesday, Muslim families huddled in a mosque in the city's northeast, praying that Hindu mobs wouldn't burn it down.

"After forcing their way inside the homes, they went on a rampage and started beating people and breaking household items," Khan said of the mobs, adding that he and his family had to run and take shelter inside a mosque that he said was guarded by thousands of Muslim men.

"I don't know if our house was burned or not, but when we were running away we heard them asking people to pour kerosene and burn everything down," Khan said.

Some of the dead had bullet wounds, according to Dr. Sunil Kumar, medical director of the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital.

Others came to the hospital with gunshot and stab wounds and head injuries.

Among them was Mohammad Sameer, 17, who was being treated for a gunshot wound to his chest Wednesday at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital.

Speaking to The Associated Press after having an operation, Sameer said he was standing on his family's apartment terrace watching Hindu mobs enter Mustafabad when he was shot in the chest.

"When Sameer was shot, I took him on my shoulders and ran downstairs," said the boy's father, Mohammad Akram. "But when the mob saw us, they beat me and my injured son. He was bleeding very badly. While they were beating with sticks, they kept on chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans and threatened to barge inside our homes."

Akram said he managed to get his son into a vehicle, but they were stopped several times by Hindus demanding they pull their pants down to show whether they were circumcised before they managed to escape from the area and reach the emergency room. Muslims are generally circumcised, while Hindus are not.

In Kardampura, a Muslim-majority area where a youth was shot and killed on Monday, hundreds of police personnel in riot gear patrolled the area and asked people to stay indoors, while residents said they were living in fear.

"We are scared and don't know where to go," said one resident, Dr. Jeevan Ali Khan. "If the government wanted, they could have stopped these riots."



# Life & Style

**BOSTON** (AP)—Lawyers for “Full House” actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, said Wednesday that new evidence shows the

couple is innocent of charges that they bribed their daughters’ way into the University of Southern California.

An attorney for the couple said in a legal filing that

prosecutors provided the defense with notes written by the admitted ringleader of the college admissions cheating scheme that support the couple’s claim that they believed their payments were legitimate donations, not bribes.

“This belated discovery ... is devastating to the government’s case and demonstrates that the government has been improperly withholding core exculpatory information, employing a ‘win at all costs’ effort rather than following their obligation to do justice,” attorney Sean Berkowitz wrote.

The filing came on the eve of a status hearing in the case scheduled for Thursday at Boston’s federal court in the sweeping college admissions bribery case. It was expected that the judge would set a trial date for the parents still fighting the charges at that hearing.

Now, the couple’s attorneys are asking the judge to postpone the setting of the trial date in light of the new evidence, saying “it is the only fair way to protect the defendants’ rights.”

Loughlin and Giannulli are accused of paying \$500,000 to get their daughters into USC as crew recruits even though neither was a rower. Authorities

## Lawyers: New evidence backs Loughlin, Giannulli’s innocence



AP  
In this April 3, 2019, file photo, actress Lori Loughlin, front, and her husband, clothing designer Mossimo Giannulli, left, depart federal court in Boston. Lawyers for Loughlin and Giannulli said Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 that new evidence shows the couple is innocent of charges that they bribed their daughters’ way into the University of Southern California.

say the money was funneled through a sham charity operated by college admissions consultant Rick Singer, who has pleaded guilty to orchestrating the scheme.

Lawyers for Loughlin and Giannulli have argued that the couple believed the payments were “legitimate donations” that would go directly to USC as a fundraising gift or support

Singer’s charity. They have accused prosecutors of hiding crucial evidence that could prove the couple’s innocence because it would undermine their case.

## Johnny Depp in UK court for hearing on tabloid libel lawsuit

**LONDON** (AP)—A lawyer for Johnny Depp told a British judge on Wednesday that the star’s ex-wife Amber Heard lied when she accused him of domestic abuse.

Depp denies the abuse allegations, and attended the High Court in London for a preliminary hearing in his libel suit against British tabloid newspaper The Sun.

The Hollywood star is suing The Sun’s parent company, News Group Newspapers, and the newspaper’s executive editor, Dan Wootton, over a 2018 article alleging he had been abusive to Heard.

The “Pirates of the Carib-

bean” star sat behind his legal team in court as his lawyer David Sherborne said the case would feature “diametrically opposed” versions of events from Depp and Heard.

“One person, one side, is lying, and one is not,” he said. “Obviously, we say that it is Ms. Heard (who is lying), Mr. Depp is 100% clear about that.”

The lawyer said that Heard was not a victim but the “aggressor” in the couple’s relationship. Depp and Heard divorced in 2017.

The full hearing is due to start on March 23.

Depp is also suing Heard for libel in the United States.

## Original ‘Flash Gordon’ comic strip art headed to auction

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The original artwork for the “Flash Gordon” comic strip is headed for a new realm—the auction block.

The auction house Profiles in History said Wednesday that it will sell the drawing on March 31. The pencil-and-ink drawing by artist Alex Raymond was first published in January 1934, and the series quickly grew in influence, spawning movies and inspiring later science fiction stories like “Star Wars.”

Profiles in History says it is the first time the artwork is up for sale.

The first story, drawn on a large illustration board, within a few panels takes Flash Gordon from being a passenger on a plane to being a hostage on a rocket headed toward a planet on a collision course with Earth.

The “Flash Gordon” strip was commissioned as a competitor to the Buck Rogers series. Raymond, who died in 1956, was praised for the artistry of his strips.

The auction will also feature another Raymond creation, “Jungle Jim,” his answer to the Tarzan character.

## ABC News suspends reporter caught in Project Veritas ‘sting’

**NEW YORK** (AP)—ABC News has suspended political reporter David Wright after he was recorded in a barroom conversation calling President Donald Trump a “nightmare spouse that you can’t win an argument with.”

Wright also used a common vulgarity to describe why he didn’t like the president in a conversation recorded by Project Veritas,

the conservative website that uses hidden cameras and undercover reporters to ensnare journalists in embarrassing conversations.

Months ago, Project Veritas released a tape of ABC’s Amy Robach complaining on set about her bosses not using a report that she had done on Jeffrey Epstein.

Wright and an ABC producer, Andy Fies, were re-

corded in a bar at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire, while covering that state’s primary. Wright talked about the frustrations of covering Trump and said the press was “easily distracted and that means we don’t bring focused attention to something that could make a difference.”

Wright said voters are poorly informed by the media and that his bosses “don’t see an

upside in doing the job we’re supposed to do, which is to speak truth to power and hold people to account.”

He described himself politically as a socialist who believes in national health insurance.

ABC News would not say how long Wright would be suspended. He will be reassigned from political coverage when he returns to avoid any possible appearance of bias.

## Woman feels little connection to mom begging her for money

**DEAR ABBY:** I was born into a poor family, and my father gave me up for adoption to his well-to-do sister. My narcissistic adoptive mother severely abused me physically, mentally and emotionally as a child, and tormented me financially as an adult. I no longer speak to her.

My biological mother has been attempting to have a relationship with me as her daughter. But I don’t regard her as my mother. I don’t feel anything toward her. All those years of abuse have left me feeling ... jaded.

My biological mother is still poor, and she constantly asks me for money to help my nieces and nephews with their needs. I understand that they are blood, but I work hard for my money and cannot afford to support them financially. They have had plenty of opportunities in the past to better their lives but decided to live off handouts. How do I find validation that I am a person and not just a piggy bank?

JADED IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR JADED:** Considering the circumstances in which you were raised, it may not be easy. A way to find some of that validation would be to start establishing some boundaries in your life. If you can afford to see a licensed mental health professional, you would benefit greatly by scheduling some sessions. Not only will it help you to get your pri-

orities straight, it may also help you to feel less guilty about saying no to relatives with ulterior motives.

**DEAR ABBY:** I felt compelled to write after seeing your Dec. 15 response to “Anywhere, USA,” the hosts seeking guidance about how to respond to the daughter of longtime friends who had recently visited. The daughter had emailed asking for a report on her parents’ habits and conduct during their trip.

As a caregiving daughter myself, knowing many other caregiving adult children and belonging to a few support groups for caregivers, I believe inquiring of family friends and other relatives about their loved ones is not wrong or invasive. Our loved ones behave differently in different situations. How they negotiate changes and social situations without the caregiver present may provide important clues and information regarding their mental/cognitive status.

Caregivers try to give their loved ones as much freedom as safely possible. Gaining information about the visit would possibly give clues regarding the ability to travel independently or not, and whether they can still negotiate social and public situations appropriately. These are examples of things that a caregiver will never observe without the eyes of others.

Many caregivers out there read your column, and others who have aging, declining friends with caregiving kids.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

People must not hesitate to say something when they notice a change in behavior.

LOYAL READER IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR READER:** I’m printing your letter because it is representative of the response I received about “Anywhere, USA’s” letter. You raise an important issue about how it “takes a village” to band together and to share observations about changes in older people’s comportment beyond simple aging.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



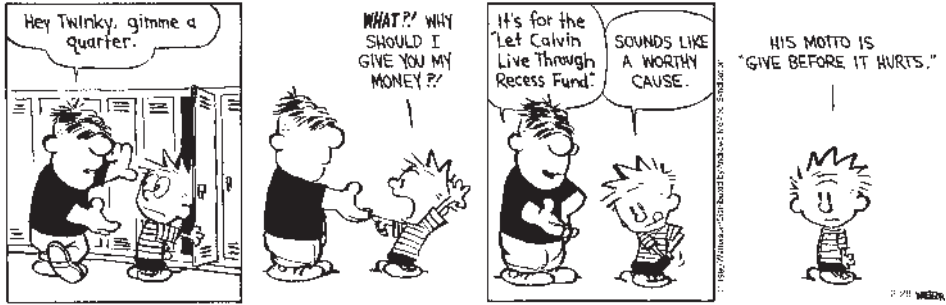
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

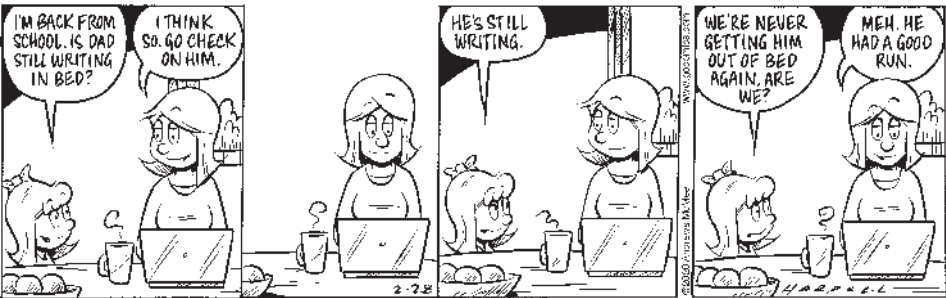


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Drenched

4 Hawaiian island

8 Actress

12 "As I see it," to a

13 Melodies

14 Morays

15 Mexican pancake

17 Sprint

18 Auction signals

19 Lauder of cosmetics

20 Union foes

22 Two-wheeler

24 "The Da Vinci —"

25 Scams

29 "I love," to Livy

30 Nullifies

31 Notable time

32 "No worries ..."

34 Jail for a sailor

35 Capri, for one

36 Ball-rolling game

37 Famed restaurant

40 Gymnast

41 Winged Korbut

42 Fraud

46 — colada

47 Dross

48 Single

49 Droops

50 Rem-brandt works

51 Filch

DOWN

1 Humorist

2 Punk-rock subgenre

3 Twisters

4 Hotel workers

5 Feels unwell

6 Web address

7 "This — test"

8 It had a big part in the Bible

9 Miami team

10 Differently

11 Tennis champ

16 Fit — tied (irate)

19 Heart charts (Abbr.)

20 Cicatrix

21 Arrive

22 Idaho's capital

23 Race place

24 October birthstone

42 Equal (Pref.)

43 Roman 1051

44 Music's Yoko

45 Civil War soldier

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Aldean, 43; Ali Larter, 44; Eric Lindros, 47; Pat Monahan, 51.

Happy Birthday: You can get what you want and where you want without taking risks. Use your intuition and intelligence to formulate the best route, and don't deviate from your plans unless it's the responsible thing to do. Your success depends on common sense precision and fair play. Protect against injury, insult and indulgence using honesty and integrity to uphold your reputation. Your numbers are 4, 9, 16, 22, 24, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be cautious when discussing work or money matters with others. What you say will be scrutinized and used against you. Approach situations with an open mind, willingness to listen and a confident but amicable attitude. Offer peace, not chaos. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Open up to the people you can trust, and hold back if you are questioning anyone's loyalty. Let your intuition guide you and your discipline help you avoid situations that could compromise you. Changes to your home will turn out well. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't feel you have to share personal matters. You will accomplish the most by taking care of your responsibilities and carrying on about your business. The less disruption in your life, the better. Treat yourself to something special. \*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Navigate your way to the top. Concentrate on your goal, and use your discipline and intel-

ligence to manipulate others to see things your way. An emotional move will take others by surprise and put you in the driver's seat. Follow your heart. \*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to become annoyed. Take a step back, and make a point to do something that makes you feel better. Attitude is everything, and if pampering yourself will put you in the right frame of mind, that's what you should do. \*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do your own thing, and get what you want. You can bring about change and improve your status quo emotionally and financially. Traveling will lead to intrigue and spark creative ideas that offer greater prosperity. Live in the moment. \*\*\*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Information should be a priority. Don't feel you have to change something because someone else does. Do what's best for you, and in your own time. Take care of your health and personal situations that are taxing. Don't give in to pressure. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will escalate. Position yourself for a good time, and refuse to let anything get to you. Pursue your personal goals, discuss your plans with someone special and live up to your potential. A positive change is heading your way. \*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful who you spar with today. Someone will use unfair tactics to mess with your mind. When in doubt, ask questions, go to the source and protect against being used emotionally, financially or intellectually. Protect your data. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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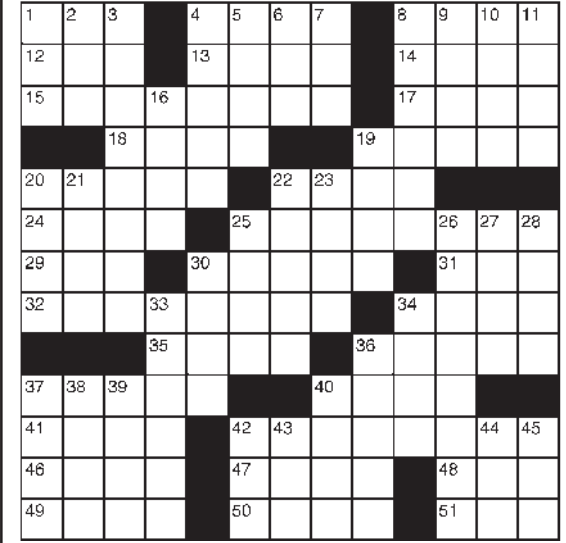
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A personal change will excite you. Don't expect everyone to agree with your plans. Use sensible tactics to get others to see things your way. Facts will be your path to getting everyone on board that you need to pursue your goal. \*\*\*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you can't get along, opt to do something by yourself. Quiet will help you sort through anything troubling. Now is not the time to jump into action, make adjustments or let your emotions take over. \*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be gracious. Show respect and fairness in your dealings, and you will get your way. Revisit what's happened, and learn from your mistakes. Your intuition is fine-tuned and will prompt you when to make a move. \*\*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are fashionable, confident and free-spirited. You are outgoing and entertaining.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.



SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VIRTUOSOS

Solution: 10 letters

E P U O R G Y O R T S E A M X  
A C B H P T N T E R E Y A L P  
R O A I I A E P E T U L F R  
E R A L G E M L L U L S U P O  
P N I R L U A L D F D S E A D  
O B O B R C O N D U C T O R I  
A O E T S S I N I G O E C A G  
R R I O I E T S F U R S V D Y  
T S L R S R T E U F U E N N I  
S O T K T E A I N M E A R S O  
E G P E A N E B U A T R T D H  
H N E Y G A B U T S T E U R P  
C O D S E D R E G N I S E O M  
R B A L L E T Y N O M R A H Y  
O I G G E P R A T A T N A C S

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Ability, Adept, Arpeggio, Ballet, Baritone, Bongos, Cantata, Castanets, Chords, Conductor, Cornet, Duet, Fiddle, Flute, Fugue, Group, Harmony, Harp, Keys, Maestro, Oboe, Opera, Opus, Orchestra, Organ, Parade, Piano, Player, Prodigy, Scale, Serenade, Sets, Sheet Music, Singer, Snare, Solo, Stage, Suite, Symphony, Treble, Trio, Trumpet, Tuba, Virtue

Yesterday's Answer: Forward

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# Westbrook scores 33 as Rockets rout Grizzlies



**HOUSTON (AP)**—On a night when the Houston Rockets scored 140 points, all anyone wanted to talk about was their defense.

Russell Westbrook and James Harden combined for 63 points as the Rockets sailed to their fifth straight win, 140-112 over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday.

Harden piled up 30 points without playing in the fourth quarter and Westbrook, who had 33, sat down for good with about six minutes left. The duo had 46 points by halftime as Houston built a 73-47 lead.

Although the Rockets let up a bit on defense with a huge lead after halftime, coach Mike D'Antoni raved about his team's effort before the break.

"It was just very good activity getting in lanes," D'Antoni said. "Our defense, rebounding, boxing out, everything in that first half was just really good."

"We're finally getting there defensively and that's what it's going to take for us to win games. ... If we want to get to where we want to go we have to engage and lock in on the defensive end, and we did that," Harden added.

The Rockets pushed their advantage to 35 after scoring the first nine points of the third quarter. The Grizzlies then scored the next 13 points, capped by a 3-pointer from De'Anthony Melton, to cut it to 82-60 with about 7½ minutes left in the period.

D'Antoni called a timeout and the Rockets got back on track after that, using a 10-3 spurt, with 3s from P.J. Tucker and Harden, to extend it to 92-63 midway through the quarter.

"On defense our communication is great, and offensively, we can't be guarded," Austin Rivers said. "So I think we're the best offensive team in the league and when our de-



Houston Rockets' Russell Westbrook, center, goes up for a shot as Memphis Grizzlies' Dillon Brooks (24) and De'Anthony Melton, right, defend during the first half of an NBA game Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Houston.

fense is up to par, we become a hard team to beat."

A 9-0 run late in the third got the Grizzlies within 17, but the Rockets closed out the period with an 11-5 spurt, capped by a 3 from Rivers at the buzzer, to take a 111-88 lead into the fourth.

Dillon Brooks had 22 points for the Grizzlies, who finished 0-4 on their longest road trip of the season.

## Cavaliers 108, 76ers 94

In Cleveland, Collin Sexton scored 28 points and the Cavaliers routed Philadelphia after 76ers center Joel Embiid left in the first quarter because of a sprained left shoulder.

The 76ers, already playing without All-Star guard Ben Simmons, never led against the team with the worst record in the Eastern Conference and fell to 9-21 on the road.

Embiid collided with Cava-

liers center Ante Zizic while being fouled late in the first quarter. The 7-footer held his shoulder in obvious pain but stayed in the game and missed both free throws.

The Sixers pulled Embiid at the next time stoppage and he walked to the locker room while rubbing his shoulder. He briefly returned to the bench in the second quarter, but went back for more evaluation and treatment. At halftime, Embiid rejoined his teammates on the bench with a wrap on his injured shoulder.

Tristan Thompson had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Larry Nance Jr. had 13 points for Cleveland.

Shake Milton, who replaced Simmons in the starting lineup, scored 20 points.

## Mavericks 109, Spurs 103

In San Antonio, Luka Don-

cic had 26 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds for his 13th triple-double of the season, helping Dallas beat the Spurs.

Kristaps Porzingis added 28 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas.

DeMar DeRozan had 27 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for San Antonio.

## Timberwolves 129, Heat 126

In Miami, Jordan McLaughlin's layup with just under nine seconds left put Minnesota ahead for good, D'Angelo Russell led all scorers with 27 points and the Timberwolves added to Miami's late-season stagger.

Malik Beasley scored 21 points, Juancho Hernangomez tied a season-high with 17 and McLaughlin added 13 for Minnesota. The Timberwolves were down by 12 with 3:59 left, then closed on a 20-5 run to get just their second victory in 20 games.

Kendrick Nunn led Miami with 24 points. Bam Adebayo had 22 points and 10 rebounds.

## Celtics 114, Jazz 103

In Salt Lake City, Jayson Tatum had 33 points and 11 rebounds to lead Boston over skidding Utah.

Jaylen Brown added 20 points and Marcus Smart had 17 for Boston. All five starters scored in double figures to help the Celtics finish 3-1 on a road trip out West.

Donovan Mitchell scored 37 points to lead Utah. Mike Conley chipped in with 15 and Royce O'Neale added 14 for the Jazz, who lost their fourth straight game—all at home.

## Wizards 110, Nets 106

In Washington, Jerome Robinson hit a 3-pointer with 8.4 seconds left to lift the Wizards past Brooklyn.

After Robinson gave

Washington a 108-106 lead, Brooklyn's Spencer Dinwiddie missed a 3-point attempt and Robinson added two free throws as Washington won after squandering an 18-point lead.

Bradley Beal led the Wizards with 30 points after consecutive games of 53 and 55 points.

Caris LeVert had 34 points for Brooklyn.

## Magic 130, Hawks 120

In Atlanta, Evan Fournier scored 28 points, Aaron Gordon added 25 and Orlando pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Atlanta.

Solidifying their hold on the final playoff spot in the East, the Magic put away the Hawks with a 14-5 spurt after Trae Young's drive cut Orlando's lead to five with 6:20 remaining.

Young had 37 points.

## Hornets 107, Knicks 101

In Charlotte, Terry Rozier scored 26 points and Charlotte handed New York its fifth straight loss.

The slumping Devonte Graham returned from a team-mandated night off to add 21 points.

Julius Randle had 18 points and nine rebounds for New York.

## Clippers 102, Suns 92

In Phoenix, Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Marcus Morris added 18 points and the Clippers beat the Suns for their second straight win.

It was a disappointing start to a six-game homestand for Phoenix, which is among several teams fighting for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Deandre Ayton led the Suns with 25 points and 17 rebounds. All-Star guard Devin Booker had a rough night, scoring 14 points on 5-of-19 shooting. Phoenix shot just 39% from the field.

# Stanton adds to Yanks' injury woes, may miss opener



**N E W Y O R K (A P)** —

Sluggish Giancarlo Stanton will likely miss opening day because of a strained right calf, another significant injury for a team that was beset by health problems last season.

Manager Aaron Boone said Stanton was hurt near the end of defensive drills on Tuesday. An MRI found a Grade 1 strain.

"It will probably put us against it a little bit," Boone said Wednesday. "I would say

it's time for him to get back, but then getting built up and stuff. We'll see."

The announcement came a day after New York said All-Star pitcher Luis Severino needed Tommy John surgery and would miss the entire season. Sluggish Aaron Judge and lefty James Paxton already had been slowed this spring by injuries.

The Yankees put a major league-record 30 players on the injured list last year, with Stanton missing most of the season.

Asked if he felt snake-bitten, Boone replied "No."

The AL East champion Yankees open on March 26 at Baltimore.

Stanton played in just 18 games due a number of injuries last season, batting .288 with three homers in 59 at-bats. He hit 38 homers in his first year with the Yankees in 2018, one year after going deep a career-high 59 times in 2017 with the Miami Marlins.

The outfielder/designated hitter signed a \$325 million, 13-year contract after the

2014 season.

Meanwhile, Justin Verlander's spring training debut will be postponed at least a few more days while the Houston Astros ace deals with tightness in his groin.

Verlander had been scheduled to start Thursday against Washington. Instead, he will throw a simulated game at the Astros' complex prior to that exhibition.

Houston manager Dusty Baker said the tightness first appeared "a couple of days ago."

"He said he's doing good, so we'll just have to keep an eye on him and analyze him," Baker said.

Baker added that he isn't worried about the injury lingering and expects that, if all goes as planned on Thursday, Verlander would make his next scheduled start, likely early next week.

"I would think so," Baker said. "It just depends on how he feels."

Verlander won his second Cy Young Award last season by going 21-6 with a 2.52

ERA. His 225 career wins are the most among active players.

The change of plans thwarts what would have been a marquee Grapefruit League pitching matchup.

Washington is still planning to send Max Scherzer to the mound on Thursday. Scherzer tossed two scoreless innings at Houston in the Grapefruit League opener for both teams.

Right-hander Christian Javier is now expected to get Thursday's start for Houston against Scherzer.



# Owners predict MLS will surpass MLB, Premier League



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Three days ahead of the Major League Soccer's 25th season, owners, executives and players gathered for a day of unbridled optimism and hyperbole.

Los Angeles FC lead owner Larry Berg predicted MLS will surpass Major League Baseball in popularity during the next 10 years and Inter Miami managing owner Jorge Mas maintained it will be of higher quality than the Premier League and La Liga by 2045.

MLS anticipates soccer's status in the U.S. will be boosted when the Americans co-host the 2026 World Cup with Mexico and Canada.

"We definitely have the demographics in our favor, both in terms of youth and diversity. So I think we'll pass baseball and hockey and be the No. 3 sport in the U.S. behind football and basketball," Berg said Wednesday at the league's kickoff event.

MLS expanded to 26 teams this season with the addition of David Beckham's Inter Miami and Nashville, and plans are in place to reach 30 franchises by 2022 -- triple the league's low from 2002-04. The league has increasingly attracted better players from South America, and Berg called youth academies the league's "crown jewel."

"The academies will be pumping out just incredible talent, which will help both the league and the U.S. men's national team such that we will vault way past Liga MX and the U.S. men's national team will vault way past Mexico, and then it will come down to



Inter Miami CF co-owners Jorge Mas, left, and David Beckham, right, pose for photos with Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber during the Major League Soccer 25th Season kickoff event in New York, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

the media deals. ... Whether we can be a top-five league or a top-three league will really come down at the end of the day to money, our ability to compete for players."

"I think the good news is players want to play here," Berg added. "We're the United States of America. People want to live here. It's an incredible lifestyle. The infrastructure is fantastic."

Mas partnered with Beckham, the former England captain Beckham, and envisioned the league's 50th year in 2045.

"I think the MLS will be one of the top sports leagues

in the United States. I think it will be on par or exceed the best leagues in the world, the Premier League or Serie A or La Liga worldwide," Mas said. "I think that the MLS 25 years from now will be Premier League-ish if we want to so-call it that on the metrics that leagues are measured by."

U.S. national team coach Gregg Berhalter thinks American video values will be key.

"I see in the 25 years, the whole world watching our game on television," he said. "The production quality that we can produce in America,

we're going to be the leader in soccer."

Clark Hunt, CEO of MLS' Dallas team and the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, compared soccer's progress in the U.S. to that of the NFL, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this season.

"The momentum that we have I think has a chance to take us to where the NFL is today," he said.

Beckham boosted the league when he played for the LA Galaxy from 2007-12, a deal that gave him the right to buy an expansion fee at a discounted price of \$25 million.

"Do I think in the next 10 years it will challenge the European leagues? It's what we all hope for. It's what we all strive to commit to," Beckham said. "This should never be a league where players from Europe come to retire. That's not where you want to be. It's not where we want to be as owners."

Austin, Texas, and Charlotte, North Carolina, join the league next year, followed by St. Louis and Sacramento, California.

Charlotte, announced in December, agreed to pay a \$325 million expansion fee. The

original teams that started play in 1996 paid \$5 million each.

Detroit, Las Vegas and Phoenix remain in contact with the league, which also is monitoring efforts in San Diego. More warm-weather cities would help the schedule early and late in the year.

"We have no plan in place to go past 30," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said. "It's conceivable that in time we might look at a larger league to be able to address some of those challenges."

Hunt recalled the league's low point.

"When we launched in the mid-'90s, there was a lot of excitement, but we almost didn't make it," he said.

Carolyn Kindle Betz, CEO of St. Louis, spoke about being a rare female controlling owner in soccer but also mis-spoke, referring to the "Major Soccer League" before correcting herself.

MLS also announced a new league anthem to be used for walkout music, composed by Academy Award and Grammy winner Hans Zimmer. There is also a new deal with Second Spectrum, which is installing optical tracking that will produce data that MLS Commissioner Don Garber said can be used for technical staffs, broadcasts and betting. The company already works with the Premier League and NBA.

**TOKYO** (AP)—Tokyo Olympic organizers and the Japanese government went on the offensive Wednesday after a senior IOC member said the 2020 Games were being threatened by the spread of a viral outbreak, with their fate probably decided in the next three months.

Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto abruptly called a news conference late Wednesday afternoon to address comments from former International Olympic Committee vice president Dick Pound in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Our basic thoughts are that we will go ahead with the Olympic and Paralympic Games as scheduled," Muto said, speaking in Japanese. "For the time being, the situation of the coronavirus infection is, admittedly, difficult to predict, but we will take measures such that we'll have a safe Olympic and Paralympic Games."

The viral outbreak that

## Tokyo organizers, government take offensive on virus threat

began in China has infected more than 80,000 people and killed more than 2,700 globally. China has reported 2,715 deaths among 78,064 cases on the mainland. Five deaths in Japan have been attributed to the virus.

Pound has been a member of the IOC since 1978, serving two terms as vice president, and was the founding president of the World Anti-Doping Agency. He has served 13 years longer than IOC president Thomas Bach. He also represented Canada as a swimmer at the Olympics.

"You could certainly go to two months out if you had to," Pound told the AP in a telephone interview from his home in Montreal. "By and large you're looking at a cancellation. This is the new war, and you have to face it. In and around there folks are going to have to say: 'Is this under sufficient control that we can be confident of going to Tokyo or not?'"

Pound was speaking as a rank-and-file member and not part of the IOC's present leadership, but his opinions are often sought in IOC circles.

"That the end of May is the time-limit, we have never thought of this or heard of such a comment," Muto said. "So when we asked about this we received a response saying that is not the position of the IOC."

The IOC has repeatedly said the Tokyo Games will go ahead and has said it is following the advice of the World Health Organization, a United Nations agency.

Japanese virologist Dr. Hitoshi Oshitani, who formerly worked for the WHO, said last week he could not forecast what the situation would be in five months.

The Olympics open on July 24 with 11,000 athletes, followed by the Paralympics on

Aug. 25 with 4,400 athletes.

Australian IOC member John Coates, who heads the inspection team for Tokyo, pointed out that the IOC has an emergency fund of about \$1 billion to operate if any Olympics are called off.

"The games aren't being canceled," Coates was quoted as saying in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper. "But if the games were canceled then the IOC is in the position to continue to fund the member sports and NOCs (national Olympic committees). But there is no plans to cancel the games."

He added: "We have canceled the games in the past at war time ... It's just a matter of monitoring how this plays out."

At a government task force meeting Wednesday on the virus outbreak, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he was asking organizers to can-

cel or postpone major sports or cultural events over the next two weeks.

"The next one-to-two weeks is extremely important for the prevention of the escalation of the infection," Abe said. "We ask organizers to cancel, postpone or scale down the size of such events."

He did not name specific events but said he was speaking about nationwide events that attract large crowds.

The three-month window also goes for sponsors and television broadcasters who need to firm up planning. Not to mention travelers, athletes and fans with 7.8 million tickets available for the Olympics and 2.3 million for the Paralympics.

As the games draw near, Pound said: "A lot of things have to start happening. You've got to start ramping up your security, your food, the Olympic Village, the hotels. The media folks will be

in their building their studios."

Muto declined to speculate about the future condition of the virus.

"I don't think I can talk based on presumptions over what might happen months ahead," Muto said. "The Prime Minister has announced measures to be taken over the next two weeks and so we, too, are taking that into consideration. The biggest problem would be if this novel coronavirus infections spreads far and wide, so the most important thing to do is to take measures to prevent that from happening."

He also said the torch relay would go ahead. It is to start in Japan on March 26 in Fukushima prefecture, located 250 kilometers (150 miles) north-east of Tokyo.

"We absolutely do not think of canceling (the torch relay)," Muto said. "We'd like to think about how to implement it while preventing the spread of infection, including scaling down, or other ways."



# Sharapova retires from tennis at age 32

PARIS—Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova, one of the world’s most recognizable and highest-paid sportswomen, on Wednesday announced her retirement at the age of 32, and was immediately hailed as “a legend” and “great champion.”

“Tennis — I’m saying goodbye,” Sharapova said in an article for Vogue and Vanity Fair magazines. “After 28 years and five Grand Slam titles, though, I’m ready to scale another mountain—to compete on a different type of terrain.”

Men’s No. 1 Novak Djokovic dubbed Sharapova a “legend” of the sport, hailing her “great impact”.

“She’s a very smart girl. She has the mind of a champion, someone that never gives up,” said Djokovic.

Sharapova burst onto the scene as a supremely gifted teenager and won her Grand Slams before serving a 15-month ban for failing a drugs test at the 2016 Australian Open.

The Russian former world number one’s ranking is currently 373rd.

Sharapova has hardly

played in the past year because of long-standing shoulder problems.

When she did feature she lost as many matches as she won and was dumped out in the first rounds at Wimbledon, the US Open and, most recently, the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Siberia-born Sharapova first picked up a racquet at the age of four in Sochi, where her Belarus-born parents had settled after escaping the deadly clutches of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

She shot to fame as a giggly 17-year-old Wimbledon winner in 2004, the third-youngest player to conquer the All England Club’s hallowed grass courts.

She became world No. 1 in 2005, at the age of 18, and won the US Open the next year.

“One of the keys to my success was that I never looked back and I never looked forward,” Sharapova said on Wednesday. “I believed that if I kept grinding and grinding, I could push myself to an incredible place.”

But in 2007 Sharapova began her long on-off battle with



AP  
In this Jan. 21, 2020, file photo, Maria Sharapova makes a forehand return to Donna Vekic during their first round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

handshakes—win or lose—and the athletes, whether they knew it or not, who pushed me to be my best,” she said.

“Looking back now, I realize that tennis has been my mountain. My path has been filled with valleys and detours, but the views from its peak were incredible.”

Sharapova had been the highest-paid female athlete in the world in the 11 years up to 2016, according to Forbes business magazine.

She netted prize money alone of \$38.8 million (35.7m euros) in a career during which she won 36 singles titles. Forbes, in its 2016 article, said the Florida-based Russian had banked nearly \$300m from prize money, appearances and endorsements since she turned professional in 2001.

## SIS

From Page 32

while on the south court, GCA 1 was scheduled to duel Hopwood 3 and Hopwood 2 and Tanapag Middle School was set to meet Mt. Carmel School.

GCA 1 is in Group B and holds a perfect 3-0 record pending results of its pair of matches last Wednesday. The Eagles will join the Geckos as the early favorites in the playoffs.

Two more playing days will

take place before the league holds its playoff round. On March 4, Dandan 1 will challenge Hopwood 1 and Chacha will face GCA 2 on the north court. On the south end, it will be Hopwood 3 vs Hopwood 2 and Dandan 1 against Mt. Carmel. Dandan 1 will also play in the last day of the regular season (March 11) as it collides with Tanapag. The final set of elimination round matches will also include Hopwood 1 vs Chacha; FMS 1 vs Dandan 2, and GCA 2 vs Dandan 3.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Francisco M. Sablan 1 player receives a serve from Saipan International School during the second set of their match in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys Middle School Volleyball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

shoulder trouble.

She would win the 2008 Australian Open before a second shoulder injury kept her off tour for the second half of the season, missing the US Open and Beijing Olympics.

In 2012, the Siberian-born Sharapova captured the French Open to become the 10th woman to complete a career Grand Slam. She added Olympic silver to her resume that year.

## TSL

From Page 32

Triple J for a very long time. Together, we support the growth and development of our islands in the CNMI and Guam. We are honored by the foundation’s generosity to our Triple J 5K community event. With Tan Siu Lin Foundation’s contributions and extended volunteer support we can make a bigger impact on our island community,” Sablan said.

“We are pleased that a re-

Her 2014 French Open title was another high after a dispiriting injury low.

More fitness troubles followed before the bombshell announcement of her positive test for the banned heart drug meldonium.

Always a fighter—the seven-year-old Maria and father Yuri left for the US in 1994 with just a borrowed \$700 to their names—Sharapova returned to the sport in 2017.

spected company like Triple J is committed to helping make our community healthier and supporting non-profit groups by hosting this fun run annually. We encourage the public to join next month’s event, bring their family members, and stay active,” TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said.

The 5K race will begin at 6am with the course starting and ending at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround point just past the Quartermaster Road across

Blue Beach House. Check-in time is 5am, while a Zumba class will be hosted at 5:15 to warm up runners/walkers.

Early registration is ongoing and would cost only \$10 if fees are paid on or before March 6. Signup fees on race day are \$15 per participant and \$35 for a group of four before race day. Registrations forms are available at Hertz Rent A Car in Garapan, Triple J Motors in Beach Road, and at the Payless Super Fresh & Truckload Store and Surfrider

Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Runners/walkers can enter in the men’s and women’s youth division (13 and under), junior (14-19), open (20-29), sub-master (30-39), master (40-49), senior (50-59) and grandmaster (60 and above). Medals will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers in each age group.

Proceeds from Triple J’s signature event will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association and Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam/CNMI Chapter. (PR)

## SOUTHERN

From Page 32

half ended in a deadlock, as both teams hung tough on defense.

In the second half, Summer Manahane helped Southern United grab the lead when she found the back of the net in the 40th minute, while a goal from Megan Mae Elayda two minutes later gave their team more cushion, 3-1. Southern United then made it three in a row, courtesy of Keisha Deleon Guerrero’s conversion in the 67th minute, while Kanoa

closed out a minute later behind Kristelle Itaas’ shot.

### BOYS U19 DIVISION Kanoa 1 2, MP United 1

Kanoa, after settling for a draw against TanHoldings in the season opener, got win No. 1 following a close triumph over MP United last Friday.

Daniel Mar Pablo lifted Kanoa to its first victory after scoring the team’s twin goals. He got his first in the sixth minute and the go-ahead in the 46th. Oliver Lee delivered the lone goal for MP United,

which played its opening match of the season.

### TanHoldings 12, Kanoa 2 0

In the other game in the division, TanHoldings proved to be too much for Kanoa 2.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Southern United Football Club’s Keisha Deleon Guerrero, third left, dribbles away from Kanoa Football Club defender Feifei Lei during the second half of their girls U17 game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.

2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League							
TEAM STANDINGS (As of Feb. 22, 2020)							
GIRLS U17 DIVISION							
CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
MP United	1	0	0	6	2	4	3
TanHoldings	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
Southern United	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3
Kanoa	0	0	2	4	10	-6	0
BOYS U19 DIVISION							
TanHoldings	1	1	0	13	1	12	4
Kanoa1	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
MP United	1	0	1	9	2	7	3
CNMI U15	0	0	1	0	8	-8	0
Kanoa 2	0	0	1	0	12	-12	0



# Paire on top; Kanoa wins opener

## NMIFA to hold AFC Women's Football Day on March 8



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will join the Asian Football Confederation family in celebrating the AFC Women's Football Day on March 8 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

It will be the sixth year that AFC is having the event, which coincides with the celebration of the International Women's Day. AFC is celebrating the event in appreciation of the hard work and dedication that many women have shown in the development of the sport.

To take part in the festivities, NMIFA will be hosting the "3 v 3 Girls Jamboree."

The jamboree will have two divisions: youth (U9, U12, U15, and U18) and adults (19 to 34 and 35-and above age group). Activities will start at 3pm.

The NMIFA Women's Committee is coordinating the jamboree with the Office of the Governor, Women's Affairs Office, and the First Lady Diann Torres Foundation. Registration deadline is March 2 and signup is free. (*Saipan Tribune*)

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Paire Football Club moved to the solo lead in the Masters Division, while Kanoa Football Club won its season debut in Division A of the 2020 Dove Women's Spring League.

Kanoa defeated TanHoldings Football Club, 4-1, last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, while Paire crushed Matansa, 7-0, last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The shutout win gave Paire its second victory in as many matches and put the team ahead of MP United, Kanoa, TanHoldings, and Matansa. Kanoa also played in the Masters Division last weekend and edged TanHoldings, 2-1, to make it to the win column.

In Division A, Paulyn Joyce delivered a pair of goals in Kanoa's triumph over TanHoldings, while Irish Pagarao and Sharmaine Francisco chipped in one apiece. TanHoldings drew its lone goal from Brittany Wally. TanHoldings absorbed its first loss of the season, failing to have a follow-up on its 6-1 victory over Shirley's in the league opener.

In Division B, TanHoldings and Paire notched easy wins, while MP United 1 and Shirley's settled for a draw, 6-6.

TanHoldings walloped MP United 2, 6-1. Rizza Ralucio



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Football Club's Marilou Arriola, left, and Jeane Bracken battle for possession during the first half of their Division B game in the 2020 Dove Women's Spring League last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

and Julie Capayas knocked in two goals apiece for TanHoldings, while Claire Barrozo and Tamia Hix contributed one each. Bunruang Brasuel scored the only goal for MP United.

Paire eased past Kanoa, 5-0, behind the hat trick of Shawna Brennfleck, while Lindsay Davis and Natalie Hill-Beyer added one goal each in their first victory of the season in

Division B.

In the MP United 1-Shirley's tiff, Heather Zona had a pair of goals for the former, while Soledad Quan, Ivan Claire Gozum, Kayla Atalig, and Samantha Babauta chipped in one each. Marielle Gariguez led Shirley's with her three goals, while Megan Elayda had two. Shirley's got an own goal at the closing minutes of the first half.

### DOVE WOMEN'S SPRING LEAGUE STANDINGS

#### MASTERS DIVISION

CLUBS	W	D	L	GA	GF	GD	PTS
Paire	2	0	0	12	0	12	6
MPU	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
Kanoa	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
TanHoldings	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0
Matansa	0	0	1	0	7	-7	0

#### DIVISION A

Kanoa	1	0	0	4	1	3	3
TanHoldings	1	0	1	7	5	2	3
Shirley's	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0

#### DIVISION B

TanHoldings	2	0	0	8	1	7	6
MPU 1	1	1	0	12	7	5	4
Paire	1	0	1	5	2	3	3
Shirley's	0	2	0	6	6	0	2
MPU 2	0	1	1	1	6	-5	1
Kanoa	0	0	2	1	11	-10	0

## McFun 5K draws over 200 runners



More than 200 runners joined the 6th Annual McFun 5K Run hosted by the Rotary Club of Saipan last Saturday.

The race started and ended at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan with a turnaround point along Beach Road across the Star Water Company. Kosuke Sato led the 260 finishers after completing the course in 17:33. In the women's division, the top finisher was Noriko Jim, who clocked in at 20:06. Sato and Jim were also the champions in the 40 to 49 age group.

In the other divisions, the winners were the following: Ken Song and Tiana Cabrera (U19); John Paul Pangelinan and Patricia Cortez (20 to 29); Juluis Mabutas and Kaori Marushima (30 to 39); Jun Hasimoto and Wendi Herring (50 and above); and Dino Peralta and Marcia Schultz (60 and above). The winners re-

ceived medals.

Sponsored by McDonald's Saipan and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, last weekend's event was a fundraising activity with proceeds going to support the community projects of the Rotary Club of Saipan.

McDonald's and the Rotary Club of Saipan would like to thank the runners and the event's sponsors for supporting this year's fundraiser. (*PR*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trainees and officials of the Army Reserve join Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu for a group photo after the 5K race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Organizers and volunteers of the 6th Annual McFun 5K Run pose for a photo before the race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rotary Club of Saipan president and McDonald's Saipan owner Marcia Ayuyu, left, presents the prizes for top female finisher Noriko Jim during the awards ceremony for the 6th Annual McFun 5K Run last Saturday at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan.





# SIS sweeps regular season



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**S**aipan International School earned an undefeated record in the regular season of the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys Middle School Volleyball League after sweeping Francisco M. Sablan 1 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The Geckos scored a 21-17 victory in the first set and completed the early win after rallying past the Napu Riders in the second, 22-20. SIS finished pool play in Group A with a 6-0 record, as it also prevailed in its earlier match against Dandan Middle School 2, 21-16, 21-15.

FMS 1, which fell to a 1-4 record, had a chance to send the game into a third set and threaten to end SIS' winning streak after posting a 20-19 lead in the second set, but failed after committing a couple of errors. It hit a wide return at the sideline, allowing the Geckos to tie the game, 20-all.

With possession going back to SIS, Andrew Chung served and got a point, moving the Geckos closer for a sweep, as an FMS player at the frontline

faltered on his return. Chung served anew and this time the ball headed to the left sideline with an FMS 1 player anticipating that the shot would go out so the latter just watched the leather dropped. Chung's serve, however, was way in, giving SIS the straight set victory.

Before beating FMS 1 and Dandan 2, the Geckos first topped Dandan 3, 21-10, 21-10 last Feb. 5; Hopwood 1, 21-0, 21-0, and Grace Christian Academy 2, 21-23, 22-20 last Feb. 8; and Chacha Oceanview, 21-9, 15-21, 15-7, last Feb. 12.

With SIS ruling Group A, it will be among the early favorites in the playoffs, which will feature the Top 10 teams plus Rota and Tinian squads. The playoff round will be held on March 20 and 21.

Meanwhile, four other pool matches were played last

Wednesday, but results were unavailable at press time. On

the north court, GCA 2 was slated to battle Hopwood 1,

**See SIS on Page 30**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Saipan International School's Casey Chambers, right, leaps for a hit, while a Francisco M. Sablan 1 player attempts for a block during the second set of their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys Middle School Volleyball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

## Southern United bounces back

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Southern United Football Club recovered quickly from a season opening loss after outclassing Kanoa Football Club, 4-2, in their girls U17 game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Southern United, which dropped its opener against

TanHoldings last Feb. 15, broke into the win column after drawing goals from four different players and despite allowing Kanoa to score first in their duel.

Sharmaine Francisco put Kanoa on the board with her goal in the 14th minute, but Tricia Mae Roque knotted the count in the 28th minute. The first

**See SOUTHERN on Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Southern United Football Club's Lillian Podziewski, center, and Megan Elayda, right, defend against Kanoa Football Club's Kristelle Itaas during the first half of their girls U17 game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

## TSL Foundation supports Triple J 5K



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Enterprises vice president Mike Sablan, second left, joins other Triple J executives, Tan Siu Lin Foundation officials, led by executive director Merlie Tolentino, sixth left, and TanHoldings Community Relations director Carline Sablan, fifth left, in the donation turnover ceremony for Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk last Monday at the TanHoldings Corporate Affairs Office in Garapan.



The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has once again showed its support to an event that promotes health and wellness by backing the Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

The TSL Foundation turned over the more than \$10,000 donation to Triple J executives led by Triple J Enterprises vice president Mike Sablan last Monday to rally behind the race that will be held on March 7.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has been a partner of

**See TSL on Page 30**